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Latin America

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Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-108 CONTENTS *6 June 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OAS Ministers Oppose Armed Intervention in Haiti *[Madrid EFE]* 1
  Discuss Haitian, Dominican Republic Situation *[Hamburg DPA]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Ham Operators Report Attack on Refugee Boat *[Hamburg DPA]* 2
  Authorities Fail To Report Incident *[AFP]* 2
More Asylum Seekers Enter Belgian Residence *[Madrid EFE]* 2
  Two More Cubans Enter Residence *[NOTIMEX]* 3
  Belgian Envoy: Asylum Seekers Wait In Vain *[AFP]* 3
Attempts To Trespass Mexican, French Embassies Reported *[NOTIMEX]* 3
Castro, Officials Meet With Iranian Minister *[Havana TV]* 4
  Tehran Reports Foruzesh-Castro Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 4
Robaina, Cuban Delegation Arrive in Qatar *[Havana TV]* 4
  Interested in Ties *[Havana Radio]* 4
Robaina Eyes Nonaligned, Ibero-American Summits *[Havana Radio]* 4
NAM Summit Issues Resolutions on Blockade, Rwanda *[Havana Radio]* 5
Commentary Reviews Nonaligned Support for Cuba *[Havana Radio]* 6
Cuba Seeks Closer Ties With Bolivia *[EL MUNDO 2 May]* 6
Vice Foreign Minister Discusses Ibero-American Summit *[Havana Radio]* 6
Industries Minister on European Trip *[Havana Radio]* 7
  Foreign Investment Guarantees *[Havana Radio]* 7
Minister Links Competitiveness, Need for Scientists *[Havana Radio]* 7
SELA Council Rejects U.S. Blockade on Cuba *[Havana Radio]* 8
  Diplomat Discusses SELA Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 8
  SELA Position on 'Hostile' U.S. Policy *[Havana Radio]* 9
Commentary Hails DPRK's Rejection of IAEA Inspections *[Havana Radio]* 9
Netherlands 'Cuba Yes' Foundation To Increase Aid *[Havana Radio]* 9
Raul Castro Reviews EJT Efforts *[Havana TV]* 10
Alarcon, Officials Attend Granma Goverment Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 11
Cienfuegos Authorities Prosecute 9 Money Hoarders *[Havana Radio]* 11
Matanzas Authorities Implement Anticrime Law *[Havana Radio]* 12
Electric Union Announces Continued Power Outages *[Havana Radio]* 12
  Suggests Fewer Blackouts Nationwide *[Havana Radio]* 12
Institute Resolution on Housing Sales, Purchases *[Havana Radio]* 12
PCC Special Plenum Discusses Economic Measures *[Havana TV]* 12
Soldiers Who Prevented Hijacking Interviewed *[Havana TV]* 13
Multipurpose Guantanamo Moncada II-94 Exercise Held *[Havana TV]* 14
FAR Work in Agriculture, Public Works Detailed *[Havana Radio]* 14
Sugar Industry To Plant 30,000 Caballerias *[Havana Radio]* 14
CTC National Secretariat Meeting Held 4 Jun *[Havana Radio]* 14
Commentator Supports Control Over Staple Goods *[Havana Radio]* 15
Commentary Hails Editorial on Economic Enterprises *[Havana Radio]* 15
AIDS Research, Medical Advances Detailed *[Mexico City PROCESO 25 Apr]* 16

Curacao

Island Executive Council Resigns *[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 3 Jun]* 21

Dominican Republic

Soldier Kills Haitian on Border *[AFP]* 22

Haiti

UNHCR Official: 'Friends of Haiti' To Accept Refugees *[AFP]* 22
Prime Minister Malval Supports Embargo *[NOTIMEX]* 22
  Malval: Cedras 'Has Nothing To Offer' *[Madrid EFE]* 23
Aristide Denies Supporting Military Intervention *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 23
Union Chief Says 'Patriots' Ready To Attack U.S. *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Episcopal Conference Urges Aristide, Cedras To Meet *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 24
Paper: Ban on Ministers' Departure Linked to Funds *[LE NOUVELISTE 31 May-2 June]* 25

Jamaica

Minister Clarifies Stand on Processing Haitian Refugees *[Kingston Radio]* 25
Senator Backs Hanging Following U.S. Tourist's Death *[Kingston Radio]* 25

MEXICO

Salinas: Mexico Will Not Be 'Springboard for Exports' *[Mexico City TV]* 26
  Salinas: NAFTA Prevents Reexport *[LA JORNADA 3 Jun]* 26
Secofi Official on NAFTA, Tariff Exemptions *[LA JORNADA 31 May]* 27
Secofi Official Warns Against Bilateral Trade Accords *[EL FINANCIERO 3 Jun]* 28
  Puche: Stance on Place-of-Origin Regulations *[NOTIMEX]* 28
Accord Establishes Definition of 'Country of Origin'
 [EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) 1 Jun] 29
European Union Denies Trade Treaty With Mexico *[NOTIMEX]* 30
Climate 'Not Propitious' for Tariff Elimination *[EL FINANCIERO 2 Jun]* 30
Salinas Trip Seen as Congressional Support for Cuba *[EL FINANCIERO 2 Jun]* 31
Taiwan Prime Minister Arrives in Mexico *[Taipei CNA]* 32
Peace Commissioner: Process at 'Crucial Stage' *[LA JORNADA 2 Jun]* 32
Baja California Authorities Investigate Entry of Weapons *[Mexico City TV]* 33
  Secretariat Denies Arms Introduction *[Mexico City TV]* 33
Congress Approves Amendment to Electoral Code *[LA JORNADA 1 Jun]* 33
New Members of IFE Council Sworn In *[Mexico City TV]* 34
Candidate Cardenas Receives Death Threat *[AFP]* 35
PGR To Reward Police Who Arrest Drug Traffickers *[LA JORNADA 2 Jun]* 35

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

UN Offered Troops for Peacekeeping Force *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 3 Jun]* 36
Calderon Sol Swears In Cabinet Ministers *[AFP]* 36

Guatemala

URNG Issues Statement on Negotiations Process *[PRENSA LIBRE 1 Jun]* 36
GAM Issues Communique Marking 10th Anniversary *[Guatemala City TV]* 37
De Leon Returns From Salvadoran Inauguration *[SIGLO VEINTIUNO 3 Jun]* 38

Honduras

Honduran-Flagged Vessels Said Taking Fuel to Haiti *[NOTIMEX]* 38
  UN Charges Ships Violating Embargo *[ACAN]* 38
Reina Interviewed on 100 Days in Office *[ACAN]* 39

Nicaragua

Leal Denies U.S. Pressure From Officials' Visit *[NOTIMEX]* 39
Lacayo: Government Compensating Property Owners *[Managua Radio]* 40
    Further on Lacayo Remarks *[Managua TV]* 40
Sandinists: Torricelli Urging Political Changes *[ACAN]* 41
Chamorro on El Salvador Visit, Haitian Refugees *[Managua TV]* 41
Sandinist Assembly Calls for FSLN Unity *[BARRICADA 29 May]* 42
Gurdian Considers Presidential Candidacy *[LA TRIBUNA 10 May]* 43
Agriculture Ministry Releases Cultivation Figures *[LA TRIBUNA 12 May]* 43

Panama

Government Reviewing Haitian Asylum Request *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 4 Jun]* 43
Endara Would Not Back, Condemn Haiti Invasion *[LA PRENSA 5 Jun]* 43
Endara Bids Farewell to U.S. 193d Infantry Brigade *[Panama City Radio]* 44
    Endara, Perez Balladares on Departure *[Panama City TV]* 44
Canal Treaty Implementation Program Detailed *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 3 Jun]* 45
PRD Source on Foreign Minister-Designate's U.S. Visit *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 5 Jun]* 47
Poll: President-Elect Has 74.7 Percent Approval *[LA PRENSA 4 Jun]* 47
IDB Confirms Not Lending Panama $270 Million *[Panama City TV]* 47
Mulino Requests Panama To Be Site of NAM Summit *[LA PRENSA 3 Jun]* 47
Endara Views Central American Integration *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 5 Jun]* 47
President Endara To Pardon Political Offenders *[Panama City TV]* 48
Endara Backs Court on Electoral Tribunal Reform *[LA PRENSA 3 Jun]* 48
President Signs Freedom of Expression Document *[Panama City TV]* 49
Assembly Leader Notes Flaws in Coordination *[Panama City TV]* 49

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Cavallo Denies 'U.S. Pressure' Caused Condor Project Cancellation *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 51
CNEA, Canada Negotiating Installation of Untested Nuclear Reactor *[CLARIN 2 Jun]* 51
Angeloz Elected To Head UCR Political Action Committee *[CLARIN 2 Jun]* 52
Ω Media Notes: Pharmaceutical Patents Law 52

Bolivia

Military Leader Warns Against Foreign Intervention, 'Anarchy' *[PRESENCIA 31 May]* 53
Indigenous Groups Hold Preparatory Meeting in Cochabamba *[Madrid EFE]* 53

Brazil

Army Ministry Buys Russian Antiaircraft Missiles, Launchers *[O GLOBO 3 Jun]* 54
'Cautious Stance' Adopted on Armed Intervention in Haiti *[Brasilia Radio]* 54
Infantry Company To Join UN Forces in Mozambique *[AFP]* 54
Temporary Real-Dollar Parity Announced, Effective 1 July *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 2 Jun]* 55
PT Seeks Electoral Law Change To Allow Labor Union Donations *[GAZETA MERCANTIL 3 Jun]* 55
Lula Denies Party Links to Landless People's Movement *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Jun]* 55
Former Peasant Leader Interviewed on Land Problems *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Jun]* 56
Landless People's Movement Official Interviewed *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 3 Jun]* 56

Chile

Mapu Lautaro Cell Dismantled in Santiago, Concepcion *[EL MERCURIO 25 May]* 57
Economy Minister Announces Fruit Exports to PRC *[Santiago TV]* 57

Navy Commander Describes 'Effective' Occupation of Seas *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 26 May]* 57
Supreme Court Rejects Amnesty Law in Letelier Case *[Santiago TV]* 58

Colombia

U.S. Radar Stations Continue To Function *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 58
Government To Counter 'Bad' Human Rights Image *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 58
OAS Human Rights Report Criticizes Judicial System *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 59
Sanin Refutes Allegations of Rights Violations *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 59
Bomb Kills Two in Arauca; Police Blame Rebels *[AFP]* 60
Foreign Minister Discusses Chairing Nonaligned Movement *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 60
Possible Increase in EC Tariff Benefits Noted *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 61
Military Plans Weapons Purchases *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 61
Israel's Peres Interviewed on Peace Process *[EL TIEMPO 31 May]* 62

Ecuador

Red Sun Reaches Peace Accord with Government *[NOTIMEX]* 64
Media, Politicians Skeptical of Rebel Surrender *[Madrid EFE]* 64

Paraguay

Opposition Leaders Suspend Talks With Government *[NOTICIAS 3 Jun]* 65
Senate Approves Protocol on Illegal Governments *[ULTIMA HORA 2 Jun]* 65
Integration Minister Tenders Resignation *[ABC COLOR 3 Jun]* 66

Peru

Infighting Within Shining Path Evaluated *[LA REPUBLICA 23 May]* 66
Ω Unemployment, Poverty in 1995 Election *[PERU ECONOMICO, etc.]* 68
President Fujimori Leaves for Japan, PRC *[Lima Radio]* 70

Uruguay

Lacalle Administration's Achievements Reviewed *[EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO 25 May]* 70
Economy Minister Denounces Candidate Promises *[EL PAIS 25 May]* 71

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Affirms Acceptance of Haitians *[Madrid EFE]* 71
Catholic Church To Handle Haitian Refugees *[Caracas Radio]* 71
Amnesty International Reports on Human Rights *[Caracas Radio]* 72
Minister Downplays IMF, UN, World Bank Advice *[Caracas Radio]* 72
Foreign Minister on Ibero-American Summit *[NOTIMEX]* 72
Government Plans 1994 Gasoline Price Increase *[Caracas Radio]* 73
    Subcommittee Chairman Endorses Increase *[Caracas Radio]* 74
Russia Seeks To Renew Agreement With Petroven *[EL NACIONAL 2 Jun]* 74
Inspector General on Weapons Modernization *[PANORAMA 31 May]* 74

OAS Ministers Oppose Armed Intervention in Haiti

PA0506220894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2023 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Belem do Para (Brazil), 5 Jun (EFE)—The foreign ministers of the member countries of the Organization of American States (OAS) reiterated in their General Assembly the need to seek a peaceful solution to the Haitian crisis, in contrast to the thesis that supports armed intervention.

In brief statements made before the traditional "informal meeting of foreign ministers" and prior to tomorrow's opening of the OAS General Assembly, most ministers came out in favor of maintaining the policy of sanctions against the Haitian coupist military.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar Quiroga, who will chair the "ad hoc" OAS foreign ministers meeting to be held on Monday to study the Haitian crisis, affirmed that they have drafted a resolution of consensus that is almost finished. It is almost certain that a statement will be issued here "reaffirming the search for a peaceful solution based on all the UN and OAS resolutions that have been adopted throughout this period," Aranibar stated.

The Bolivian foreign minister said that, at the 24th OAS General Assembly being held in this Brazilian coastal city, the countries of the continent will also condemn "all illegal acts that are being committed and the continual and systematic violation of human rights in Haiti."

Among the OAS countries, "there is a deep conviction that a return to democracy and the return of President (Jean-Bertrand) Aristide are essential elements for the peaceful solution that the continent wants," Aranibar said. He added that his country "is opposed to any armed action." "Any decision along those lines could cause a cure worse that the illness," the president of the "ad-hoc" meeting said, adding that "some new ideas" are being studied to reinforce sanctions, "but nothing spectacular."

Strobe Talbott, U.S. under secretary of state, whose country has not ruled out armed intervention in Haiti to resolve the crisis following the coup against Aristide in 1991, did not refer to this point, but indicated that he expects that this meeting will reiterate the message of the international community that "the de facto government must end very soon."

"We have already done plenty for this to happen through cooperation, and we hope that new steps are adopted in the next few days and weeks," added Talbott, even though he did not specify the types of additional measures he was referring to.

The U.S. representative to the OAS meeting was optimistic regarding a solution to the Haitian crisis because of the "extraordinary solidarity" Assembly participants have displayed regarding this problem.

Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Naranjo, on the other hand, said "there are still certain diplomatic, economic, and financial actions that can be implemented before thinking of more extreme measures." He added, "I believe that it is still not time for the use of force; instead, certain additional sanctions are still required.

The only person to openly admit the possibility of military intervention in Haiti was Argentine Foreign Relations Minister Guido di Tella who said his country would back an action of this sort if it were agreed to and authorized by the UN Security Council. Nevertheless, Di Tella affirmed that for the time being, what has to be done is to guarantee the closure of the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic in order to comply with the total embargo imposed by the Security Council, which went into effect on 21 May.

Discuss Haitian, Dominican Republic Situation

PA0406175594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1610 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Belem, 4 Jun (DPA)—The situation in Haiti and electoral fraud charges in the Dominican Republic will focus the attention of foreign ministers and top Latin American and U.S. representatives at the 24th OAS General Assembly that will start Monday in the Brazilian city of Belem.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim confirmed the importance that the organization places on the Haitian crisis, but he was skeptical about the possibility of increasing pressure on the military regime led by General Raoul Cedras through a total embargo against the Antillean country.

Diplomatic sources said they expect the Haitian issue to be discussed next Tuesday, but it could also be discussed on Sunday, at a meeting prior to the official assembly opening.

The most controversial issue is the use of force to reinstate President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who announced that he will attend the Belem meeting, Amorin told the press.

The five-day meeting will mark the end of the mandate of Brazilian Joao Baena Soares as head of the OAS for the past decade. The meeting will give way to his elected successor, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria. Gaviria, 47, should assume the post by late August or September, after the runoff presidential elections in Colombia.

The foreign ministers will also discuss the situation in the Dominican Republic resulting from fraud charges, following the recent presidential elections. Several countries of the region announced they will not recognize the results of the elections that gave a slight victory to incumbent President Joaquin Balaguer over Social Democrat Francisco Pena Herrera.

Among other issues, the Belem meeting will deal with an inter-American convention on women's rights, and the state of the struggle against drug trafficking and gun running.

Cuba

Ham Operators Report Attack on Refugee Boat

PA0406225194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2224 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 Jun (DPA)—A group of Colombian and Panamanian ham operators today "saved" a group of Cubans who were fleeing their country aboard a boat that was attacked by seamen of Fidel Castro's regime, privately owned Radio Caracol has reported.

According to the radio station, which cited Colombian ham operator Jorge Villa, "they monitored the call for help on a shortwave frequency from a group of Cubans when the boat in which they were escaping was attacked by a Cuban gunboat."

The ham operators immediately contacted a U.S. military base, explained what had happened, and gave the location of the Cubans who were quickly aided by a Coast Guard vessel and two helicopters. The attacking gunboat returned to its Cuban base, the Caracol report states, citing the ham operators.

The boat was carrying approximately 70 Cuban refugees who decided to flee to the United States. The report does not indicate the final destination of the Cubans or their identities.

Authorities Fail To Report Incident

PA0506031894 Paris AFP in Spanish 0243 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 5 Jun (AFP)—By Saturday night, Cuban authorities have still not confirmed reports from the United States that 61 Cuban refugees, fleeing Cuba by boat, were attacked by Cuban naval vessels, which resulted in the injury of seven people.

The official Cuban press has still not released any information on this new incident, which took place at the same time 124 Cubans occupy the Belgian ambassador's residence in Havana.

According to the passengers rescued south of Florida on Saturday by the U.S. Coast Guard, their boat was chased by Cuban military vessels following their departure from Mariel (40 km west of Havana), and they were fired upon.

A coast guard spokesman had not confirmed by Saturday night the origin of the shots, stating only that 61 Cubans had been rescued from sea and that seven were wounded, four by gunshots.

More Asylum Seekers Enter Belgian Residence

PA0306213994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2012 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 3 Jun (EFE)—The fact that the 124 people who have entered the Belgian ambassador's residence in Havana apparently refuse to leave has led to a deadlock in the conflict. In addition, two or three other persons entered the residence today, diplomatic sources told EFE.

One of the Belgian officials told foreign journalists that he could "neither confirm nor deny" the report on the persons' entry. Several witnesses, however, said the people slipped into the building from neighboring houses' yards despite the presence of dozens of Cuban plainclothes and uniformed police. Three people left the house on Thursday. According to a report that the other would-be refugees filtered to the press, these people could be state security agents.

Serafin Rodriguez, director of the Cuban Foreign Ministry's Europe Department, told EFE that the local authorities still do not have a list of the refugees, "which could be useful for many things, even to alert the ambassador, if necessary, about some of the people inside the building."

Rodriguez said that a few days ago, the Belgian Government mentioned to the Cuban Government the possibility of sending in reinforcements to its four-person delegation in Havana. These reinforcements would include diplomats and technicians. "We accepted," Rodriguez said.

On Thursday in Brussels, a spokesman reported that the authorities consider sending a small contingent of police—not more than five—to keep order in the interior of the ambassador's residence.

Rodriguez said Cuban Foreign Ministry officials, Belgian Ambassador Paul Vermeirsch, and special envoy Willy Verriest have continued to talk and that the two sides agree that the occupants must leave. "The problem lies in getting them out," he said.

Rodriguez said Cuba has "guaranteed in writing" that these people will not be tried for the occupation of the embassy building and that the offense "will not constitute aggravating circumstances in eventual trials."

The fact that they created, inside the occupied residence, an organization, the Union of Cubans for Freedom, does not help, Rodriguez said, but he added that this is something that requires further study. Diplomatic sources commented that the Belgians perhaps should "apply some more heat and pressure" on the refugees to persuade them to leave the embassy.

Two More Cubans Enter Residence

PA0406033294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0215 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Diplomatic sources have disclosed that two more Cubans entered the occupied residence of the Belgian ambassador in Havana at dawn today.

With the new arrivals, the number of occupiers has risen to 124; they have been at the embassy since 28 May demanding permits to leave the country.

The sources refrained from specifying how the two new arrivals entered the residence, which is surrounded by dozens of policemen from the National Revolutionary Police (PNR) and state security agents dressed in civilian attire.

Today, Willy Verriest, the Belgian Government envoy, Ambassador Paul Vermiersch, and Foreign Ministry officials examined the "technical aspects of the measures that will be adopted to facilitate a final solution" to the problem, according to the state-owned news agency PRENSA LATINA.

Belgian Envoy: Asylum Seekers Wait In Vain

PA0406194394 Paris AFP in Spanish 1739 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, Jun 4 (AFP)—The 124 Cubans who have occupied the residence of the Belgian ambassador in Havana for the past week to obtain political asylum in a foreign country are "waiting against all reason," Willy Verriest, emissary sent by the Belgian Government, stated on Saturday.

"It is a situation without a short term solution because Cuban authorities are not going to authorize the asylum seekers to leave the country. The Cuban authorities say they will not allow the seizing of an embassy to be a way to pressure to leave the country; they will not accept this," Verriest told the foreign media.

"To obtain authorization to travel to any country—regardless of the country—it is necessary that normal procedures be followed," added Verriest. Verriest was the Belgian Ambassador to Cuba from 1986 to early 1990.

"The positions of both governments are clear: Cuban authorities have given guarantees (that the occupants will not be subjected to retaliation when they leave the residence) and we have acknowledged those guarantees," he emphasized.

Asked if any progress had been made in the negotiations with the occupiers of the Belgian Ambassador's residence, Verriest declared: "There has been no progress. The advances are not sufficient." He added: "We asked the people to leave but I see that they remain in the residence."

He said he had the impression that the 124 occupants (68 men, 32 women, and 24 children) are, up to now, "a group that is very homogeneous," with a politicized discourse.

On Tuesday, in several messages sent to the foreign media, the occupants presented themselves as people who "peacefully oppose" the regime and said they would refuse any contact with Cuban authorities. They stated in their documents that they would rather "immolate themselves" before abandoning their objective of leaving Cuba and receiving asylum "in any other country."

According to several diplomatic sources in Havana, the current objective of Cuban authorities is to break the group's unity. As evidence, the sources say that on two occasions, at least, several people have entered the residence and that the 124 occupants suspect those people to be state security members.

The Cuban media has mentioned the spotty entrance of additional asylum seekers and has said those people also want to be exiled. Four persons entered the diplomatic headquarters on Sunday, however, in an unexplained manner because there is a heavy police presence around the residence. One of them left on Monday and the other three on Wednesday night. In their place, two other individuals entered the residence, in an equally mysterious manner, on Thursday night, according to official Cuban and Belgian sources.

Attempts To Trespass Mexican, French Embassies Reported

PA0306192094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1828 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Havana, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Attempts to trespass the residences of the Mexican and French ambassadors and other reports of similar actions followed the occupation of the Belgian ambassador's home, which is on its seventh day today.

Three Cubans unsuccessfully tried to break into Mexican Ambassador Carlos Tello Macias' residence located in the exclusive neighborhood of Miramar on Monday afternoon, according unofficial reports.

A similar incident took place on Tuesday when four other Cubans tried to break into French Ambassador Jean Raphael Dufour's residence, also located in Miramar, which is west of Havana. In that incident, security guards arrested two men and two others fled.

Reports that were later denied of similar incidents in at least four other missions circulated in newspapers this week while the residence of the Belgian ambassador, Paul Vermiersch, continues to be occupied by over 100 Cubans who are trying to leave the country.

The building is surrounded by police while the authorities of both governments are holding talks to achieve a peaceful evacuation of the house in exchange for a Cuban offer to refrain from carrying out any reprisals against the asylum seekers.

Castro, Officials Meet With Iranian Minister

FL0606014194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz has held a friendly meeting with Gholam Reza Foruzesh, minister of the Construction Jihad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him to Cuba. During the meeting, a message from Iranian Islamic President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was relayed to Fidel. Carlos Lage, Ricardo Cabrisas, and Iranian Ambassador Gholam Ali Heydar Khajehpur were also in attendance. The discussion focused on bilateral issues contributing to strengthening ties of economic cooperation between the two nations.

Tehran Reports Foruzesh-Castro Meeting

LD0606093594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Text] Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh, in a meeting Saturday with Cuban President Fidel Castro, presented him with a message from Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The expansion of economic relations between the two countries was the main subject of discussion between Foruzesh and Castro, according to news agency reports.

Robaina, Cuban Delegation Arrive in Qatar

FL0606003794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the NTV newscast]

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Qatar early today. Robaina and his delegation had previously participated in the ministerial summit of the Nonaligned Movement.

Robaina was greeted by Qatari Minister [passage indistinct] and Cuban Ambassador Orlando Requena. Robaina told local reporters that the Cuban Government is interested in developing ties with Qatar and other Gulf states and that to this end, diplomatic ties were recently established with Oman and that there is the political will to do likewise with the rest of the countries in the region. Robaina added that another goal of the trip is to study ways to develop bilateral trade in connection with the results of the trip to Cuba by Qatari businessmen.

In 48 hours, Robaina will fulfill a busy agenda including meetings with Qatar's head of state, Amir Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, and the ministers of foreign affairs, health, and economy and finance. Robaina will also tour the Umm Sa'id industrial complex and the petrochemical and steel plants. This occasion will also serve to officially inaugurate the Cuban Embassy.

Three months ago, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabur Al Thani visited Cuba and since then, Qatari delegations have gone Cuba to inquire about cooperation in sports, health, and tourism.

Interested in Ties

PA0506192594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Relations Minister Roberto Robaina has arrived in Qatar for an official three-day visit by invitation of that country's foreign affairs ministry. He was greeted at the capital city airport by Ahmad bin Muhammad Ali al-Subayi, the minister of electricity and water resources.

In reply to questions by the local media, Robaina said Cuba is interested in developing ties with Qatar and other gulf states. In this regard, he recalled the recent establishment of diplomatic ties with Oman and added that there is political will to do the same with other countries of the region.

In less than 48 hours, the Cuban foreign minister will complete a busy schedule that includes meetings with Chief of State Amir Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani; the crown prince; and the ministers of foreign affairs, health, and economy and finance.

Robaina traveled to Qatar from Cairo where he attended the Nonaligned countries' ministerial meeting.

Robaina Eyes Nonaligned, Ibero-American Summits

FL0406032194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, in Cairo, by Jose Mejia, in Havana; from the "Exclusive" program—live]

[Text] [Mejia] Please tell us about the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit and the resolution condemning the blockade against Cuba. How do you feel about Colombia hosting the forthcoming summit?

[Robaina] I am glad to have this exclusive opportunity, through the "Exclusive" program, to tell our people about this summit, which ended just a few hours ago. It has been a great opportunity to hold meetings. Practically every Cuban economic and political proposal was included in the final resolution, following many hours of extensive analysis. The 120 NAM members meeting in Cairo clearly shows everyone's will and commitment to strengthen its role and to ensure it plays the role it deserves. The meeting was significant for Cuba, in particular, not only because of what was discussed in every sphere but also because Cuba's just position on the blockade was praised in bilateral meetings. We have received the Movement's unanimous support not only reaffirming what was approved in Jakarta three years ago but also bolstering what the United Nations also recently approved and demanding, on behalf of the NAM and the poor of the Earth, the immediate cessation of such a hostile policy against Cuba.

[Mejia] Colombia will host the next summit. How was this decided?

[Robaina] The Movement has a regional rotation mechanism. Latin America had the right to host the next NAM summit, which should take place in September 1995. Colombia is one of the countries which the Latin American group believes are in a position to assume such a responsibility. Colombia presented its candidacy. The responsibility originally fell on Nicaragua, but Nicaragua announced that it was in no position to assume this responsibility. We all have confidence in the Colombian Government's organizational capacity. America, in general, and Colombia, in particular, are preparing to host the event at a very special time. Indonesia started strengthening the Movement, and Latin America and Colombia now have the duty to continue to do so.

[Mejia] Please tell us about the fourth Ibero-American summit, in Cartagena de Indias. What will Cuba propose at this summit?

[Robaina] The Ibero-American summit offers the nations of the continent and the region the chance to meet without being summoned by the empire. This has been expressed even more since the first meeting—in Guadalajara—since Madrid, and since Bahia.

The Ibero-American forum and its very special characteristics give this summit a special importance. The organizers and the Bahia summit called for this meeting to focus primarily on economic integration and to replace protocol speeches with debates among the regional heads of state.

Cuba is involved in all summit preparations. Our personnel have been working on this in Cartagena, Bogota, and several other Colombian cities. We will attend with many hopes and wishes for the summit not to be a summit of intentions but a summit of specific action that begins to yield something for the peoples, specific results regarding integration, development, exchanges. This is what we want from Cartagena. We are on its doorstep. This is a good time for our country and for the region, in particular.

[Mejia] Certain international news agencies have said that the NAM summit focused on the Latin American countries since they believe that the NAM has lost its strength. What is your opinion?

[Robaina] There might have been a trend regarding the Movement's strength or lack of strength, but today, more than ever, the reasons which gave rise to this important force still exist. I believe that as long as there is a strictly unilateral [unipolar] world politically and militarily and that as a long as the economic might is concentrated in the north, the other two-thirds of mankind, represented by the NAM, more than ever, have reason to pull together to have an authoritarian and forceful enough voice to fight on behalf of all. This is what the Cairo meeting has shown, the need for the Movement to become that forum of which we, the poor of the Earth, are so much in need.

NAM Summit Issues Resolutions on Blockade, Rwanda

FL0306215094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The more than 100 countries attending the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] Ministerial Summit have called for effective, immediate implementation of the UN resolution on the need to end the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the U.S. Government against Cuba. The final document approved today by the foreign ministers during the closing session of the summit calls upon the United States to abstain from acting in bad faith against Cuba and calls for the return of the Guantanamo Naval Base to that country. It likewise demands stopping violations of Cuban air space and waters and the broadcasting of hostile radio and television programs in violation of international laws. The document also urges the United States to solve its differences with Cuba through negotiations grounded in equality and mutual respect. The document calls for the international community to adopt urgent, effective steps to end the implementation of unilateral coercive measures against developing countries for political reasons.

During the closing session, Colombian Vice Foreign Minister Vilma Safra announced that the City of Cartagena de Indias will host the 11th summit of NAM heads of state in September 1995. During her address, Safra stated that Colombia undertakes this responsibility fully aware that the success of the movement will depend on the strength of its convictions, its unity, and its negotiating power.

Among the documents approved during the closing session, there are two special resolutions on Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the case of Rwanda, the NAM Summit urges the UN Security Council to urgently take every measure necessary to put an end to massacres in that African nation. To this end, it called for arranging for all of the resources needed to organize and deploy UN peacekeepers in Rwanda and to summon a conference of all the sectors involved in the conflict. In the case of Bosnia-Hezergovina, the NAM summit demanded the immediate cessation of hostilities and the halting of all military operations, with the supervision of UN peacekeepers.

Commentary Reviews Nonaligned Support for Cuba

FL0406161694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] The Nonaligned Movement's [NAM] 11th ministerial conference attentively heard and included in the final declaration basic Cuban foreign policy concepts that Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's delegation expounded in Cairo. Cuba terms as satisfactory the fact that the Cairo Declaration issues an appeal to end the U.S. economic blockade against the island, guarantees the Movement's continuity, and demands the establishment of equitable relations between developed and underdeveloped nations to achieve justice and equality.

The 109 countries represented at the ministerial conference urged the U.S. Government to abstain from carrying out actions against Cuba if these contradict the good-neighbor policy. They also requested the return of Guantanamo Naval Base and the effective and immediate implementation of the UN resolutions on the blockade. It may be recalled that the UN General Assembly issued statements in 1992 and 1993 advocating suspension of the economic blockade against Cuba, but the United States has yet to comply with the letter and spirit of the appeal.

During his so-called message to Cubans on 20 May, President William Clinton not only manipulated Cuban history with evil intentions but also reasserted that he will maintain the economic boycott against the island. The Cairo Declaration signed at the NAM's 11th ministerial conference also said the adjustment programs and the foreign debt should not affect human development programs, a concept that coincides with Cuba's views. Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina had emphasized before the plenary session that the NAM's number one priority is to sponsor Third World nations' economic and social development. Robaina said in Cairo that the best guarantee for a permanent and durable peace is to end hunger. He said: If we do nothing, we will be condemned to disappear, meaning two-thirds of mankind would disappear.

The conference in Egypt also discussed a reorganization of the United Nations so that it fulfills the wishes and goals of the poorest countries, which represents one of the basic points in Cuba's foreign policy. The decision adopted by those gathered in Cairo to grant the Colombian city of Cartagena de Indias the right to host the 11th summit of NAM leaders and heads of state also represents encouraging news, given the need to review specific problems in the region. Most of those problems are similar to the ones which prevail in Cuba, except the old Cuban-U.S. dispute.

The NAM's ministerial conference, which just ended, proved Cuba's active role in the Movement and the endorsement that its proposals, views, and demands for support receive in that forum.

Cuba Seeks Closer Ties With Bolivia

94P20834A

[Editorial Report] Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish on 2 May 94 on page 3 reports that Cuba is strengthening scientific and cultural ties with Bolivia through university programs and tourism. Dr. Jesus Castro, international relations director of the Jose Antonio Echeverria Politechnic Institute, said the Ideal Tours Agency of La Paz is opening an agency in Santa Cruz which will promote tours to Havana. He also announced that professors from universities in Havana will be teaching summer courses in humanities, technical sciences, and medicine at Bolivian universities.

Vice Foreign Minister Discusses Ibero-American Summit

PA0506131394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Jorge Bolanos said here in Havana that Cuba is interested in achieving specific agreements on integration and economic reactivation in Cartagena de Indias. He also stated that this meeting will be different from the others. It will be new in various ways, he said.

[Begin Bolanos recording] Cuba is attending the summit with an interest in achieving a specific action or project for the integration of Latin America. When I say integration, I am speaking of trade, investments, exchange in technical assistance, and scientific-technical cooperation. This was not achieved on previous occasions of the Ibero-American Summit. Documents were issued reflecting the wishes of Ibero-America in that respect, but when you analyze the agreements you will see that very little was achieved. Also, very little was achieved in other aspects.

Specifically, there will be an important difference. I say important because each scenario and each person imparts a given style and personal touch to the event. A delegate can have an idea of what is going to take place. I can tell you, for instance, that the event will not be the same as previous ones. It will be a more dynamic summit and there will be less protocol. I believe it will be more substantial. More time will be given to interviews and to debates by the chiefs of states than on previous occasions. There is something new which must be stressed. It is that, in addition to a speech by each head of a delegation, who will each speak seven minutes, there will be a panel divided into subjects. One of the subjects will be the flow of investments. There will be the subject of integration, social changes, and how to achieve integration and social change from the social and economic perspectives. There also will be other subjects. The topics will be given to a group. Those topics are to be given to a group of Latin American personalities. I think the fact that we are participating on equal terms is somewhat of a reaffirmation of the principles for which we have struggled so much, and for which Latin America has struggled so much. These principles are sovereignty and free determination. I think this summit is a rejection, or I might use a stronger word, a repudiation of the exclusive and exclusivist policy that has been implemented against Cuba throughout its history since 1959. It is a reaffirmation of the existence, strengthening, and consolidation of the revolution, even during difficult moments for our country, and even in very difficult international conditions. I think this is the most important aspect of the summit. [end recording]

Industries Minister on European Trip

PA0506044594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Marcos Portal Leon, minister of basic industries, by reporter Jose Pena; place and date not given; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Pena] This is Radio Havana Cuba, sir, and we would like to have your opinion on the trip that has taken you to several European countries.

[Portal] This was an official trip to participate in the oil conference in Norway, where Cuba had an opportunity to explain the progress we are making in our country in the field of petroleum. This includes exploration and drilling activities carried out by Canadian, French, British, and Swedish corporations. The activity is doing well, and we are interested in getting the news to other countries and other oil companies. Several companies showed some interest in Cuban geological resources and its more promising exploration areas. We believe we have attained our goals. In addition to this success, Cuba has been admitted to the Oil Congress, which was another of our objectives. We believe that this first leg of the journey was highly successful.

We went to London to sign a contract with a second British corporation for oil exploration in Cuba. The corporation is the British Borneo Oil Corporation. This firm will join the first one in the central region of the country, where there are already several oil wells in operation. They have shown their interest in moving forward with this specific project.

Participation of corporations such as these is based on joint risk concession. This means that there is money being invested that will return when and if production begins. Such contracts demonstrate the degree of trust these companies have in us and the support they are receiving from Cuba in their investment projects. This is why I constantly stress the risk they are running by investing in our country. This is perhaps the most significant part about the trip here.

[Pena] Several news agencies have reported on statements regarding the success several Canadian companies are experiencing here. Has anyone found oil in Cardenas?

[Portal] We completed the drilling phase at that site, and we were testing the well. I learned here at the Congress that one of the areas has proven positive. There is oil in that seismic structure. This was truly reason for celebration. It was welcomed as great news. It is true, according to official announcements these two Canadian companies have made. It is true, and we will continue our explorations and drilling to determine the well's potential.

[Pena] What kind of guarantees can Cuba offer its foreign investors regarding stability and professional ethics?

[Portal] As you may know, Cuba is ranked 29 in stability for foreign investment among all of the countries of the world. This is due to the social and political stability the country offers; the technical and cultural advancement of our people, our technicians, and our engineers; and the laws that protect foreign investment. These, I believe, are advantages that encourage people to invest in our country, despite the U.S. trade embargo. This demonstrates just how independent the companies and governments really are. It is important to us because it diversifies our economy, preventing it from depending on one country alone. All of this makes it important for us to consolidate our economic independence.

Foreign Investment Guarantees

PA0406000194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Marcos Portal, Cuban basic industries minister, has said in Paris, capital of France, the ethics of our professionals as well as Cuba's political and social stability guarantee foreign investments on our island.

Portal, concluding a tour in Paris that took him to Norway, Great Britain, Holland, and France, has said Cuba ranks 29th in security for investments, placing it ahead of most Latin American countries.

Although he did not downplay the negative effects of the U.S. blockade against Cuba, Portal said the Cuban Government's economic strategy does not depend on the lifting of this measure imposed by Washington more than 30 years ago.

Minister Links Competitiveness, Need for Scientists

FL0406135894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin, minister of science, technology, and the environment, has said that one of the huge problems that Latin America faces in competing in world markets is a lack of scientists. Simeon pointed out in a PRENSA LATINA interview that with the GATT agreements and free trade, most products of most Latin American countries are not competitive. Simon added: To be able to compete, there must be scientific and technological support, which Latin America does not have. She went on to say that was the issue that dominated three days of debates on scientific development during the meeting of scientific, technological, and investigative officials in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The meeting ended on 3 June with a number of recommendations to the Ibero-American heads of state and government.

SELA Council Rejects U.S. Blockade on Cuba

PA0506021594 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Participants at the 20th Council of the Latin American Economic System [SELA] in Mexico condemned the blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States over 30 years ago.

A resolution approved by representatives from 27 of the regional organization's member countries urged the U.S. Government to lift its restrictions against the Caribbean island, characterizing their effects as harmful to the Cuban people.

The SELA text contemplates the need to reaffirm, among other principles, the sovereign equality of states, noninterference in the internal affairs of states, and freedom of trade and navigation, which are established in various international agreements.

It is estimated that Cuba has lost approximately $40 billion as a result of the U.S. restrictions and efforts to hinder trade negotiations between the Cuban Government and foreign businessmen and institutions.

Diplomat Discusses SELA Meeting

PA0406201794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with diplomat Omar Morales, chief of Latin American multilateral and global matters of the Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry, in Mexico City, by Reporter Bianca Govin; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Govin] Mr. Omar Morales is currently in Mexico as a member of the Cuban delegation to the Latin American Economic System [SELA] conference. Mr. Morales, although this event ends on Friday, could you tell us what issues were addressed.

[Morales] Let me tell you that the 20th Conference of the SELA is important, not only because it is the 20th of its kind, but also because there have been important parallel events. One such event was an important seminar. Many Latin American figures participated, including the five permanent secretaries the system has had during its 20 years. There were four round table discussions on the dilemma surrounding development in Latin America and the Caribbean; on Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the new international agenda; on Latin American and Caribbean integration, and on the challenges of the 21st Century.

Comrade Ernesto Melendez, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, participated in one of these discussions. He addressed the issue of the 21st Century and the challenges that SELA now faces and its plans for facing these challenges. It was a very significant discussion, as were almost all of the presentations at the seminar. At this time there is a meeting with all of the participating ministers on a very special issue—the relationship between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean. That has become the main issue of this meeting as the so called Hemispheric Summit, summoned by the United States, draws closer.

The delegations here have all been probing to see what the various countries in America have to say about such an important matter as relations with the U.S. There has been plenty of work and the SELA reached a decision regarding the important issue of the contrasts between Latin American integration and hemispheric integration. Furthermore, they discussed the possible role of the so-called Hemispheric Summit. This is rather a quasi-hemispheric meeting because, as you know, our country has been excluded from the event. All the delegations here expressed their will.... [pauses] There are several doubts about the meeting: Why there is no agenda? Why and how was Miami selected as the seat? The lack of will by the U.S. Government to discuss issues such as trade, cooperation, investment, and the transfer of technology, which are so very important to Latin America.

Minister Melendez pointed out other additional issues. He asked how Latin American can explain a debt of $487 billion, while more than 200 million people live in extreme poverty.

[Govin] We also know that you plan to participate in a meeting of the technical committee discussing the creation of the Association of Caribbean States. The meeting is planned to begin today, and will last for three days. Please tell us about the meeting?

[Morales] We are going to hold what we expect will be the last meeting of the technical committee on the creation of the Association of Caribbean States. We are sure the end results of our work here will be the installation of the Association of Caribbean States, which will then carry out its own agenda among meetings of Caribbean heads of states and ministers in the near future.

SELA Position on 'Hostile' U.S. Policy

FL0406130794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The Latin American Economic System [SELA] on 3 June condemned the U.S. blockade of Cuba during the closing of its 20th ministerial council in Mexico City. A resolution to promote the integration of Cuba, Suriname, and the Dominican Republic into the association of Caribbean states, scheduled to meet in Barbados in July, was also made. The 27 nations that make up SELA stated unanimously that free trade contributes to the economic development and well-being of the people. They also stressed the convenience of strengthening commercial relations in the hemisphere. They reject the implementation of unilateral measures that could affect international free trade and urge that the economic, commercial, and financial blockade of Cuba be lifted and manifest their support of the U.N. resolution on the issue. This is the first time since its creation in 1975 that SELA adopts an energetic attitude against the United States' hostile policy toward Cuba.

Commentary Hails DPRK's Rejection of IAEA Inspections

PA0606044694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Commentary by Norberto Hernandez from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] International sanctions are the current fashion, especially when it is the U.S. Government that is most interested in those sanctions. Any government that refuses to follow Washington's instructions or fulfill its demands sets itself on the path to economic sanctions.

Worst of all is that the United States has managed to introduce these methods in the OAS, and when a problem arises with any government, the first thing that is proposed and decided is to apply sanctions and twist the arm or squeeze the necks of those who are reluctant or rebellious.

Washington's current target is North Korea because it has refused to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to conduct inspections to confirm whether or not the North Korean Government is on the verge of manufacturing nuclear weapons. The U.S. Government seems to have forgotten that North Korea is an independent and sovereign country with the full right to decide who does or does not enter its territory.

As for the possible danger of the North Korean Government's having nuclear weapons, there is no doubt that the threat is much less than that represented by the United States' huge nuclear arsenal, which no one has questioned as one of the greatest threats to humanity. Washington has managed to make Russia, the Ukraine, and other former USSR countries agree to disarm themselves by eliminating their nuclear arsenals. The U.S. Government demands that everyone disarm, but it has not touched and does not seem as if it will touch a single one of its intercontinental missiles with their dreadful multiple-target nuclear warheads and its terrifying chemical and biological warfare labs, where catastrophic accidents could happen at any time, unleashing a carnival of death and destruction on the planet.

No one, however, has even mentioned the possibility of the United States' agreeing to disarm, let alone that it be punished for this or any other reason. The United States has the same legal status as all other countries, and within the context of international law it has the same duties and rights. Why then, is the United States above any international authority? Why has no thought even been given to imposing sanctions on the United States for any of the misdeeds it has traditionally perpetrated against other countries?

It is obvious that international law has nothing to do with that powerful state, which can request and implement sanctions, (?express its views), make demands, level charges, and summon or recriminate other governments, but does not allow anyone to even disagree with its plans. With what moral authority do U.S. leaders talk about democracy, law, [word indistinct] and justice when they are not capable of submitting to the views and rights of others?

The DPRK has every right to work scientifically for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as any other state should. The DPRK Government has proven that it is not a warmongering country and that it does not pose a threat to peace and stability in Asia, as is proclaimed by the Western propaganda media, which are dominated or influenced by the United States.

The international community need not attack the DPRK because its government refuses to please Washington or submit to its demands through international institutions. If the United States had treated the DPRK respectfully, as the sovereign state that it is, if it had been fair and egalitarian in its international relations, it would have gotten a lot more and, especially, it would have earned respect it will never be able to claim by force.

Netherlands 'Cuba Yes' Foundation To Increase Aid

PA0606020694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Niko Barkeviser, president of the Cuba Yes Solidarity Foundation [Fundacion de Solidaridad Cuba Si] in The Netherlands, told reporters in Havana that many Netherlanders support peoples who are defending their integrity and future. He said his organization hopes to increase its aid to the Caribbean island.

The foundation began through a French initiative to send an oil tanker to Cuba, and its purpose is to discuss the situation on the island, especially the U.S. blockade, but not internal issues which, Barkeviser said is a Cuban problem.

Barkeviser said his foundation is trying to increase European cooperation with Cuba. Over the past two years, the foundation has sent approximately 30 tons of potato seeds and powdered milk to Cuba and plans to help increase the 10,000 Netherlanders who visit Cuba every year.

Raul Castro Reviews EJT Efforts

FL0406020794

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0050 GMT on 2 June carries a report on General Raul Castro's 24 May tour of Youth Labor Army [EJT] camps in Camaguey Province. The report begins with file footage of Castro's August 1993 address to mark the Batalla de la Sacra anniversary, during which he announced the EJT's creation.

The report then switches to footage of the 25 May final analysis meeting with several Politburo members, generals, local officials, party officials, enterprise representatives, and a large group of journalists. He emphasizes that "the EJT was primarily created to solve the lack of manpower in the sugarcane, agrarian, and livestock sectors in the fertile lands of Camaguey." Aerial shots of the farms and EJT members at work are shown while Castro speaks.

He says the EJT flag has been hoisted in 56 municipalities, "from the coffee-growing mountains of Baracoa on the eastern tip of Cuba to the Isle of Youth and the tobacco plantations in western Pinar del Rio," and that their unselfish efforts and higher productivity and efficiency were praised by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the 7th Science and Technology Forum, where he said the EJT continues to grow, and is the most productive force in the agriculture sector.

Raul Castro indicates that the EJT is in charge of "19 integral farms owned by eight enterprises, which produce assorted crops in Havana Province. The integral farms encompass 830 caballerias, which represent half of the tillable land owned by those enterprises. The other half is organized in production cooperatives. The two forms of organization using state-owned land encompass 60 percent of the area destined for the production of edible roots and vegetables, and the remaining 40 percent belongs to the peasants." This means that "the EJT fighters are responsible for 30 percent of the area destined to provide these products for the population in Havana Province, which has close to 3 million inhabitants."

The announcer indicates that "all this work must be done despite the shortage of fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, farming tools, spare parts, assorted materials, clothes, shoes—even hats, which are essential in the tropical sun."

Within the meeting, various camp leaders review the work carried out on each farm, the types of problems encountered, the efforts to find appropriate solutions, the Union of Young Communist's [UJC] efforts in the area. Colonel Jorge Romero says, "The Minfar [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] commission adapted its work to the control system used by EJT leaders. This allowed an in-depth analysis of the work methods and styles. The most evident advantages include the possibility of confirming results and developing production processes and work systems," as well as "learning about current deficiencies and problems and pinpointing their causes more accurately; evaluating the overall results rather than partial or individual results; being more objective in our assessment and enabling us to solve certain problems during the visit." Col. Romero says, "Officers are prepared to control all of the farm's activities regardless of their specialty;" adding that "compliance with the measures and recommendations" has helped train the Havana Division, and that this "will be systematically checked until their full implementation."

Other camp leaders discuss the EJT members' education levels, relations with the community, visits to the capital, entertainment programs, costs of food and clothing, and minor issues brought up by the workers.

Castro reviews the final report and asks that a copy be given to the journalists so they can review it and ask questions. One of the journalists says he is "impressed with the report because it is very specific and reviews problems honestly, but without pessimism."

In reply to another journalist's question, Castro responds: "We will let no one [pauses] we will act within the law, and I say this before someone interprets this as a threat to anyone. We will act within a legal framework so nothing, neither the illegal street vendors nor the deficiency of our government bureaucracy, prevents the fruits of our soldiers' work from reaching their final destination—the local market, the people."

The meeting continues with reports from various Minfar officers. Some of them review visits to other farms and their assessment of the technical and material supplies, time allotted for travel, EJT members' complaints about meals and potable water supplies. Other officers refer to farm machinery, fuel consumption and delivery, work attendance, salaries, costs, and production levels.

Agriculture Minister Alfredo Jordan also addresses the meeting and says that "undoubtedly, the transformation process currently being implemented in the agriculture sector, based on the Politburo agreement, actually represents five forms of production" because it involves state-owned farms; 29 UJC farms; 28 agrarian and livestock cooperatives; and 49 credit and service cooperatives. The sum of all this must necessarily increase production."

Minister Jordan adds: "We recently checked the integral farms' work during the first period, here in Havana. We said it was necessary to adapt an overall control system for the in-depth simplification process we must logically continue in the agriculture sector. We must change the agriculture sector from top to bottom. We must evaluate the work and we must do it correctly. We will refer to the EJT integral farms' work based on what we have seen here. We will also evaluate the work done by agrarian and livestock cooperatives, individual peasants, and credit and service cooperatives."

The official also admits there prevail "a series of difficulties and problems; they are part of the overall process currently underway. Like I said in the beginning, I am fully convinced, fully and truly convinced that, under the current circumstances and despite the limitations of resources we have, the number of things we can do is infinite, and the information presented here proves it. I think this was ascertained everyday wherever we went—how much more can be done with the fuel we deliver, how much more can be done with the fertilizer we deliver, how much more can be done with the chemical products we deliver, and how much more can be done by the leadership to optimize the manpower we have. The number of things that can be done concerning crop production is infinite."

Furthermore, Division Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Minfar and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, summed up the work carried out when he said that "this is the second work visit the Minfar has carried out in the Havana Division, according to the method we have created to periodically ascertain the work carried out by this great unit, the results of its production tasks, the problems it faces, and the help it needs."

He says every effort is being made to overcome "the shortages we still have and the problems which preclude the achievement of higher levels. This is where we must fulfill our duty to guarantee and support the processes and systems. We cannot let this production effort be limited or go to waste due to the lack of means that could have been obtained on time, an activity that could have been carried out in advance, or a lack of effort," because "that is our role, and we are sure the EJT will fulfill its role—as it recently showed us with the results achieved in the latest potato harvest," which "resulted in more than 744,000 quintals and obtained a profit in excess of 300,000 pesos. Twelve farms achieved positive economic results. Upon evaluating the EJT's production results on this occasion, we stress that the EJT has again demonstrated its determination to not only produce and achieve a high yield, but also to become more and more efficient and feasible."

Gen. Rosales concludes his statement by praising the EJT soldiers and commanding officers for their work and dedication, to fulfill their main task, while dealing with the shortage of agricultural products.

Alarcon, Officials Attend Granma Goverment Meeting

FL0606020694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], is attending the fourth special session of the provincial People's Government in the City of Bayamo. The main goal of the meeting is to discuss and approve the progress report which Granma Province will render to the ANPP session in July. It was ratified at the meeting that the document will be enriched by the people in meetings to be held in every district in the province. Granma's progress report includes a broad overview of the work conducted between 1985 and 1989, as well as the intense and productive effort of the entire population between 1990 and 1994, years within the special period marked by a great spirit of sacrifice and commitment to solve the problems created by acute material shortages.

Granma's delegates and deputies stressed that the food program is in need of joint efforts, to increase the seed banks, the organic planters, and to use the scientific potential to quickly satisfy the people's food needs in a controlled and intelligent manner.

The fourth special session of Granma's government is also being attended by Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias; Adolfo Diaz, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Alfredo Enriquez Pina, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Granma. The session also discussed the proposed shield of the province in which the principal and most significant elements of the glorious historic and revolutionary endeavors of the province are represented.

Cienfuegos Authorities Prosecute 9 Money Hoarders

FL0306224494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The implementation of revolutionary measures against the so-called money hoarders continues nationwide. On 3 June, the 5 DE SEPTIEMBRE weekly of Cienfuegos carried an article, entitled, Act of Justice, regarding the first nine cases being processed by the prosecutor's office and other entities in accordance with Decree Law 149. Cienfuegos authorities have seized from these people who attained their wealth illegally 19 cars of diverse makes, including two Moscovits, two Ladas, and three Jeeps, as well as six motorcycles. Authorities also seized 13 houses and [passage indistinct] of rice and 2,595 of beans. The article adds that the vehicles seized from the money hoarders will probably be allocated for use as ambulances and for other social services. The 13 homes will be used as schools and daycare centers among other uses, and the seized food will be distributed to hospitals.

Matanzas Authorities Implement Anticrime Law

FL0306190394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Implementation of Decree-Law 149 gains momentum in Matanzas Province with the start of legal proceedings in seven cases of ill-gotten wealth, thanks to the work of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System in each municipality. Authorities are holding, among other things: six automobiles; one truck; one farm; one home; dozens of head of cattle, sheep, and pigs; and a great number of domestic appliances. The active response to this law, which this operation requires, relies on the people's support. The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, the attorney's office, the Interior Ministry organizations, and the Finance and Prices Ministry, in coordination with other entities, have joined to conduct a process whose last step will be the total confiscation of ill-gotten goods. Decree-Law 149 is supported by Articles 61 and 62 of the Constitution, which condemn obtaining wealth illegally and which mars the fairness of our socialist society and reflects the need to strengthen control on state resources, as well as complying effectively with our laws.

Electric Union Announces Continued Power Outages

FL0406014394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The current electricity generation deficit will continue into next week. The outages will therefore follow a pattern similar to what has happened lately. The Electric Union made this announcement this evening. This entity of the Basic Industry Ministry added that the situation in June is not as critical as during April and confirmed that Cuba continues to receive the necessary spare parts and equipment to conduct projected maintenance programs.

From 2-8 June, the average power output projected is 1,420 megawatts and the projected demand will peak at times at 1,835 megawatts. In other words, there will be deficit similar to that experienced in the last few weeks.

The Electric Union also announced that a light maintenance program is scheduled to be conducted on unit No. 4 of the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Electric Plant in Cienfuegos. This is one of the two 150-megawatt generators this plant has under repair. The repairs are expected to take four days.

Suggests Fewer Blackouts Nationwide

FL0406133994 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report by correspondent Pedro Garcia]

[Text] The generation of electricity will include a deficit of 415 megawatts next week. This figure is consistent and does not alter the normal rationing program, as happened in the phase ending 3 June. This means in layman's terms that there may be fewer blackouts nationwide, barring unforeseen circumstances. The Electric Union has also reported that this is an acceptable balance given the current situation in the country, adding that maintenance work scheduled for thermoelectric centrals at the national level continues at a positive pace. A unit of the Carlos Manuel Cespedes Central, in Cienfuegos, will soon undergo minor maintenance work. This will not affect the average daily generation of 1,420 megawatts significantly. It has been officially reported that if this pace of repair and maintenance in the country's plants continues, a 60-percent generation level will be achieved by December.

Institute Resolution on Housing Sales, Purchases

FL0306162694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The National Housing Institute has issued a resolution regulating the donations and swaps [donaciones y permutas] of houses to avoid illegal actions intended to deride the current legislation. The most frequent illegal action is that of buying and selling houses through donations and swaps. The donation of houses among former married couples [ex conyugues] is now regulated. The new resolution of 1994 regulates cases of donations among former married couples: The transfer will not be authorized if they had no offspring and were not married two years. The matter will be submitted to the president of the National Housing Institute for consideration when the donations are made to legal entities.

The inheritance of houses through wills:

The new resolution of the National Housing Institute states that in all cases of legal entities inheriting houses through wills, the acting notary public will obtain the authorization from the president of the entity. The specialized sectors of the housing system will receive and diligently investigate possible illegal actions intended to deride the current legislation. A complete report will be made when the information received contains enough elements to suggest that an illegal transfer of housing is taking place. The provincial housing authorities will immediately take up the matter and will coordinate with the proper departments of the Justice Ministry, State Attorney's Office, and the Interior Ministry.

PCC Special Plenum Discusses Economic Measures

FL0506235594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Managing and supporting the implementation of the measures approved by the Council of State to mend the national economy were the main issues of the fourth Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] special plenum of

Havana. The plenum, chaired by Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the PCC in Havana, and Finance and Price Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez, debated implementation aspects of Decree Law 149 on ill-gotten wealth, as well as changes in prices and fees, and the illegal purchase of cars, houses, motorcycles, and other items. Provincial budget revenues and expenses as well as the results of improved economic efficiency in agricultural production, and in the tourism, sugar, and cattle industries were also debated.

Finance and Price Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez addressed the plenum and affirmed that economic measures would not be levied on the population alone, but would reach every state entity.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] Work is being done to better control the hard currency economy in Cuba; a number of decisions have been made to better control this. Work is being done on the entire tax policy so that foreign entities working in Cuba or linked to Cuban capital can contribute their share to the state in hard currency. [end recording]

During the closing, Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the PCC in Havana, pointed out the importance of analyzing the state budget all the way down to the municipality, and even the people's council, and stressed the importance of PCC members explaining every measure adopted to the people.

Soldiers Who Prevented Hijacking Interviewed

FL0506234494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Interview with boat Captain Arnel Lopez and soldiers Norberto Duran and Misael Valentin by unidentified reporter in Caimanera, Guantanamo Province, date not given—recorded]

[Text] This newscast recently reported an attempt to hijack a boat in Caimanera, which was thwarted by a group of young men who are now the recipients of the people's gratitude for having safeguarded the people by risking their lives.

In a ceremony of thanksgiving for the peace of mind that was interrupted by scoundrels and traitors, Caimanera sings of love and duty in the voice of this girl .

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What made you suspect their plans?

[Lopez] Because they were asking too many questions. People going to do a job do not have to ask so many questions.

[Reporter] Questions that made you suspicious?

[Lopez] Because I have taken comrades to work there [as heard] before, and they go to do their work and that is all.

[Duran] We were beginning to sense their plans and kept glancing at one another. We all had the same idea. I decided to tell the boat captain: Quick Arnel, turn around and head for Caimanera. Right then, one of them surprised me and threw me overboard. At the same time, they attacked my partner.

[Reporter] There were five of them and three of you.

[Duran] Three: two guards and the boat captain.

[Lopez] When I heard the scuffle in the back, my first action was to turn off the motor. As I turned around, one of the men, the ringleader, was coming at me with a gun. I grabbed his hand and fought it out of his grip.

[Reporter] What did you do to stop the boat?

[Lopez] I tore the cables off and killed the motor's acceleration.

[Reporter] In other words, the boat could not be moved.

[Lopez] They were going anywhere with the boat.

[Misael Valentin] When they attacked us, the first thing in our minds was that they could not take away the boat.

[Lopez] Valentin was hit four times in the chest.

[Reporter] Where did you pick him up?

[Lopez] In the sea, the canal, swimming.

[Valentin] After shooting me, they threw me over overboard.

[Reporter] They shot at you again in the water?

[Valentin] After I hit the water, they shot me twice.

[Duran] I told him to go underwater and also did so ourselves because he was heading our way and the shot was aimed in our general direction. We all went underwater and when we resurfaced, he told me: Duran, help me, help me, I am shot and cannot stand it any longer.

Then I swam quickly toward him. At that time, the enemy, who was still on the boat, jumped overboard and tried to swim away because the boat of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] was approaching. But the DAAFAR comrades captured him.

[Valentin] If a bullet had gone onto the American side, it would have created a conflict with worldwide repercussions, in addition to feeding their propaganda against Cuba.

[Reporter] You knew that right then, you were defending your country?

[Lopez] Yes, and as many times as necessary, I will continue to defend it, even if the price is my life. What I love is my country and the Revolution, in which I have grown and lived.

[Reporter] All 20 years if your life.

[Lopez] All 20 years of my life. [end recording]

Multipurpose Guantanamo Moncada II-94 Exercise Held

FL0606003894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] The Moncada II-94 exercise has showcased the high level of readiness of unit commands and defense councils of Guantanamo Province to confront and repel any aggression. It could not be any different. Even though this is a period of relative calm, the enemy is combat-ready on the other side of the fence. The people of Guantanamo cannot forget that sad privilege.

The exercise allowed command posts and defense councils to demonstrate their skills in command and cooperation, as well as in directing operations, and the fight.

Juan Carlos Robinson Agramonte, president of the provincial defense council, affirmed that Moncada II-94 was more than a defense exercise; it also contributed to accelerating the work being done to repair the damage caused by the recent rains and the efforts to build over 500 homes for the people affected, marked the restart of the sugar harvest, and highlighted efforts to restore the provincial road infrastructure, for which heavy earth moving equipment is needed to speed up reconstruction of bridges and sewers.

FAR Work in Agriculture, Public Works Detailed

PA0606043094 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Report on interview with Colonel Pablo Rodriguez Meza by reporter Marianela Samper; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Contemporary history has a few examples of armies, which during times of economic recession in their countries, have made small contributions to help their countries emerge from the crisis. Today, I want to discuss certain characteristics of the Cuban military, which throughout all these years of revolution, has directly contributed with agricultural, construction, investigative, and medical services, with direct links to the people they belong to.

Without neglecting their primary defensive work, the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] currently carry out a number of economic tasks intended both to reduce the state budget and guarantee troop provisions, with the surplus going to the people.

I found one example of this in the Eastern Army's Chemical Defense Regiment. Beside being the best of its kind in accomplishing its fundamental work, the regiment keeps its armament and techniques in an excellent state, despite special period difficulties. The regiment cares for 20 caballerias of land to boost the troop's food program. This work goes beyond their area of responsibility with tasks that are coordinated with civilian institutions for the benefit of the population. This work is explained to us by Col. Pablo Rodriguez Meza:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] We have participated in several assignments together with civilians. For example, the fumigation of several municipalities because of the recent mosquito outbreak in the city. We have carried out this fumigation jointly with the Public Health Ministry; we have rendered this service. We have done the same in some schools.

[Samper] In these cases, you supply both the experience and the equipment?

[Rodriguez] The service and the equipment.

[Samper] Do you have a plan to work jointly in areas where the environment has been contaminated?

[Rodriguez] No, our work it not with the environment. We are working with certain factories that use toxic industrial products; we help to neutralize these products and transport them to safe places. For this, we have detailed plans. We recently worked along these lines in the Artemisa Municipality.

[Samper] When you say neutralize, is this some sort of substance you apply or is it a protection system?

[Rodriguez] It is a protection system that allows us to neutralize the toxic products, ensure they do not contaminate, and transport them in containers to safe places. [end recording]

Sugar Industry To Plant 30,000 Caballerias

FL0606014294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] One of this month's strategic goals of the Sugar Industry Ministry is to plant the more than 18,000 caballerias of sugarcane projected for the current spring campaign, in order to guarantee the sugarcane supply of forthcoming harvests. Fulfilling this plan will also make it possible to create the necessary conditions to plant no less that 30,000 caballerias throughout the year. This is an essential step toward stabilizing the seed supply.

CTC National Secretariat Meeting Held 4 Jun

FL0606014394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] A meeting of the National Secretariat of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] is being held today. The meeting is focusing on the process of economic efficiency assemblies being conducted nationwide. The CTC will hear briefings on the work conducted jointly by the CTC and the Cuban Economists Association, the progress report of the Cuban Public Administration Union, the implementation of new measures for workers' cafeterias, as well as the workers' vacation plan.

Commentator Supports Control Over Staple Goods

FL0406182294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Commentary by Luis Orlando Pantoja from the "First Thing" program]

[Excerpts] One of our listeners, who happens to be an old friend, told me yesterday that she has scales at home. She said that she decided to weigh some of her purchases when the young man brought them to her from the store. She began with the rice: six ounces was missing. Then came the sugar: five ounces was missing. [passage omitted]

I mention this because I have precise information about other places where similar incidents have occurred. Of course, the rice and sugar later end in the black market. Where do these and other products come from? I believe they come from the stores, among other places, and, in some cases, from what is not delivered to the stores and butcher shops.

I am not saying that this applies to all the stores, supermarkets, and butcher shops because it is not true and it would not be fair. One cannot judge everyone alike; one must not use the same median to judge everyone. To tell you the truth, certain places are not weighing the products correctly, and the surplus is accumulated and used to speculate, to sell it, to embezzle the people, etc.

In fact, on certain occasions the rice, beef, ground meat, hot dogs—whatever other product arrives—are unscrupulously sold in the same stores and butcher shops. In some way, these cunning people, these thieves, are deceiving the inspectors or, simply, some inspectors are not doing what they should and are being swindled. I believe the situation which currently prevails in the country, the shortage, all the problems which afflict the population...[pauses] I believe all the staples should be subject to controls. The measures should be particularly strict dealing with those products.

We cannot have the same controls that we had, for example, 10 years ago and that were not precisely the best. It is necessary to be stricter now, and the organizations which have inspectors for that control should or are dutybound to be more demanding. We have ways to prevent that type of theft, and, if this is so, those who have the responsibility of preventing this theft are dutybound to do so.

Commentary Hails Editorial on Economic Enterprises

FL0406175294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez from the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Colleague Alberto Pozo recently published an editorial in BOHEMIA magazine, headlined "Gross or Net." In my opinion, it unequivocally talks about certain ways to handle economic enterprises. Sometimes we turn our backs on the truth and opt for dreams or mirages. Pozo discusses in his characteristic and direct language the issue of the profits that the tourism sector earns for the country. He says there is talk of $700 million in gross revenues in 1993, when the important thing is to know the net figure actually earned and to ascertain that it at least approaches the median that indicates efficient and effective work.

I quote my colleague: There are examples of countries which earn many dollars a year in this regard, yet they have spent many more to earn them. Pozzo adds: This is nothing but a red herring, so it is not a matter of concentrating on the big figure. The important thing is to analyze it and learn if the actual benefits, the clean and absolute benefits, of that overall amount truly represent proof that all the necessary and adequate things are being done in each case.

Pozo insists that if our tourism sector spends more than 60 cents seeking external resources for each $1 it earns, we cannot talk about an efficient enterprise. An optimum benefit means most of the products and services demanded by the sector should be local. In addition, it would be necessary to analyze how many employees we have per room in our hotels and how much money we collect from renting the facilities. It is not the same to attain $20,000 per room every year than to collect $40,000 per unit, as it happens in other nations.

The author indicates that the change in structure which resulted in the National Tourism Institute's disappearance strives to abolish inefficiency. Alberto Pozo adds: A 40-percent occupancy rate cannot be considered efficient, much less when capitalists believe a 40-percent occupancy rate means the hotel is bankrupt. In fact, they close the hotel when it reaches a 65-percent occupancy rate.

In other words, many issues must be considered when dealing with an economic evaluation. If we only review one issue, we may see what truly does not exist. This is something we progressively assume, if we bear in mind that figures, number, costs, and profits were not a cardinal concern for many people until recently, when the belt was tightened to the limit. Then it was time to begin counting cents to see what could exactly be done with them.

If economic officials have to be precise and careful on these issues, I cannot but warn that the media must inform the people about these problems with the same care so the people's perception is as exact as possible. I believe Alberto Pozo, the dean of journalism, is giving us all a clear example of what must be done and how it should be done.

AIDS Research, Medical Advances Detailed

94WE0272Z Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish No 912, 25 Apr 94 pp 52-57

[Article by Heinz Dieterich Steffan]

[Text] Havana—To become or remain one of the "first class" nations, says Konrad Seitz, director of the Strategic Planning Department of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there is only one route: to master one of the five key technologies of the future world market: computers, biotechnology, space technology, new forms of energy, and new materials.

Of these technologies, the most important, says Noam Chomsky, is biotechnology.

To this opinion of the German strategist should be added a second condition for admission or permanent membership in the First World: being an independent state with sufficient autonomy and political determination, in dealing with the major world power centers, to defend a development project based on national interests.

In light of both of these parameters, the future of the Latin American countries appears dismal. With the exception of Costa Rica—which is not representative of Latin America—Cuba is the only country that meets these two requisites, and, therefore, the only one with a good probability of leaving underdevelopment behind.

The real independence of the Cuban state requires no further demonstration. And of these five technologies of the future, Cuba is now one of the world leaders (with the United States) in the one that is most important: biotechnology and genetic engineering. By the year 2000 this market will have a volume of $200 billion, and Cuba will dominate a large part of it.

The following report presents a summary of numerous interviews with directors of Cuban biomedical and biotechnology institutions, and provides the most extensive account that has yet been published abroad on the spectacular advances made by the Cuban Biotechnology School. This lack of information is not due to any Cuban clamping down on the flow of information, but instead to the virtual censorship of reports of any success of the Cuban process, a censorship that prevails in almost all of the Western communications media.

AIDS Vaccine

As in other laboratories all over the world, Cuba is also doing intensive work on the scourge of AIDS that, according to WHO [World Health Organization] estimates, has to date afflicted 12 million people. In many countries, it is now one of the leading causes of death. (In Mexico it was in fourth place in 1991.)

The Cuban Biotechnology School's battle against AIDS is being waged on three fronts: the development of a vaccine against the virus; the design of accurate and inexpensive diagnostic systems for massive use in blood banks and with the population; and developing medications to treat "opportunistic" infections, that is, diseases that occur because of the AIDS-induced weakening of the immune system.

The CIGB [Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center] is one of the most important centers working to develop an AIDS vaccine. In a 62,000-square meter facility near Havana, over 600 scientists, most of whom are young, produce 160 different products, 30 of them developed through genetic engineering.

Its scientific staff has expertise in all of the modern methodology necessary, including genetic engineering, molecular biology and immunology, and advanced biochemistry, and it has the most advanced research and production hardware in the world, as revealed by an inspection tour of its labs and industrial facilities.

Dr. Manuel Limonta, the director of the institution and of its scientific board, states: "Cuba will have an AIDS vaccine by 2000 or earlier."

He says they have "a working group that is developing a vaccine against AIDS using genetic engineering technology to prevent the disease." This is a "strong group" which has already been working on this program for "a long period of time, and the group has produced significant results."

Limonta did not describe these "significant results," but from other sources we deduced that they have managed to isolate and characterize the specific viral strains responsible for HIV, and that they are now in the laboratory testing phase.

The CIGB director expresses confidence that they will manage to "bring AIDS under control" immunologically, and states categorically: "We are going to develop a vaccine."

[Dieterich Steffan] Before the French or Americans do?

[Limonta] I do not know if it will happen before, but I believe it may be before 2000. That is my personal belief. I think it may be earlier than that, or it may be around that time. That is my view of the matter.

If it were not Dr. Limonta making this pronouncement, it might appear somewhat rash. But Limonta is a "heavyweight" in this field, and his personal achievements and those of the institute he directs lend authority to his assertion.

In support of this, the director of the CNIC [National Center for Scientific Research], Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, says that Limonta and his team "practically live in their labs when they are trying to solve something"; they are "extraordinarily dedicated to the work they are doing, and if they make such a statement, they are capable of doing it." He recalled their achievement with interferon as an example.

When Limonta, working with a small team of young researchers, proposed producing interferon in Cuba, "people were talking of a minimum time frame of three to four years; they did it in 42 days—a truly record time, as everyone recognizes."

On the lengthy list of the successes of the CIGB and its director—many achieved in close collaboration with other Cuban scientific institutions—there are nearly 160 different products that have been developed by the CIGB, including about 30 produced through genetic engineering "from start to finish"; these are "recombinant products."

To convey an idea of what this means, Dr. Limonta explains that "in what is known as the Third World, Cuba is the only country that has developed—from start to finish—products through the use of genetic engineering, which are known and registered products, and which are exported. Such products have not been developed in any of the other countries, even in countries that are much larger than Cuba, like China or India."

Just in 1993 the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington registered three patents for the CIGB; by so doing, it recognized the originality of the products, and that Cuba is the only country with the technology and the methodology to produce them. It also recognized that the quality of these products meets the Food and Drug Administration standards, the most stringent in the world, and granted Cuba the exclusive right to produce and sell these products in U.S. territory for 17 years.

These products include a preventive medication for myocardial infarction called "Estreptoquinasa" (registered as No. 07/703,778), the first vaccine for meningitis BC developed anywhere in the world (07/754,918) and the invertase sucrose enzyme which converts sugar into fructose.

For "Estreptoquinasa," Cuba—with the exception of one U.S. firm—is the only country that has produced this medication, says Limonta. He explains that this product can dissolve clots in coronary arteries. "This medicine is capable of eliminating clots in a high percentage of patients when it is administered immediately after the infarction, and it prevents the infarction from progressing. So it acts as a preventive for myocardial infarction."

The patent registration for this product has already been applied for in over 40 countries; "They are going to grant it, for we know that we are the only ones who have developed an original process to make this medication. Getting a patent of this type reflects the high technological capability of our institution; in this case, the technology is genetic engineering."

Studies of the drug produced in the United States have demonstrated that its biological effect is similar to that of the Cuban product; however, the Cuban medication is much cheaper than the U.S. drug.

"'Estreptoquinasa' was also developed in record time. From the time when the idea was first conceived until the product was registered as a medication, only four years elapsed."

On the average, in Cuba products are developed in less time than in U.S. and Japanese companies. "We have a study, done by U.S. and Japanese scientists, that says that we are 1.3 times more productive than they are, in terms of the time required to complete a product and put it to use, while complying with all the legal requirements."

In practice, this higher productivity coefficient may mean, for example, that a U.S. or Japanese product which requires 10 years for research and production, may be developed in seven years in Cuba. The explanation offered by the Cuban scientists for such a surprising phenomenon is complex, but they all agree that the educational and scientific philosophy of the revolution, of which these young people are the result, is the key factor.

Another spectacular success of the CIGB is what is known as "nerve growth factor" which "is still not known elsewhere in the world," says Limonta, "because nobody else has been able to develop it." This medication (a protein) is used to regenerate nervous system damage, and it "could also be useful in a disease like Alzheimer's." The product has now entered the industrial production phase, which will enable it to be used in clinical trials.

Genetically Altered Animals and Plants

Another line of research the CIGB is pursuing is the genetic modification of animals and plants. To date they have produced transgenic mice, rabbits, and fish. Their goal is now to produce a genetically altered cow.

Limonta explains that in these animals a new trait or genetic information is introduced in the fertilized ovum, which the animal assimilates as its own and transmits hereditarily. In this way, genetic changes can be produced, and new species can even be created.

The specific objective is to make mammals' milk—in this case, cow's milk—also produce medications. "The cow is an excellent milk-producing laboratory. If we can introduce in this laboratory the intelligence enabling it, in addition to milk, to also produce specific proteins, then we could have, for example, interferon production in cows. It all seems quite simple." "We would not need a complex and costly industrial interferon production process, which requires the use of fermentation equipment, close monitoring, etc.; the entire process would be done solely in the animal. We would extract the product from the milk and the milk would then be used normally."

[Dieterich Steffan] That sounds like science fiction.

[Limonta] Yes, but it is going to happen. I am absolutely sure of it. We have already done it. We have obtained medications in rabbit milk.

[Dieterich Steffan] Do international specialists know this?

[Limonta] The ones who read international publications do. First we did this with mice to test the methodology. Then we used rabbits to improve the methodology and produce medications. That was again successful. And now we are working to produce medications in larger animals, in cows. We have not done that yet, but we are going to.

Growth Hormones

Manuel Limonta also discussed the CIGB's progress in the control and use of growth hormones.

"We have worked on fish, and in this area we really have one of the most advanced groups in the world. We introduced the genetic information contained in the growth hormone in fish. This causes the fish to grow very rapidly; they do not reach a larger size than normal, but they do so more quickly, because they incorporate their food better."

The time saved can be half or an even larger percentage compared with the normal growth period. The fish—in this case tilapia, a carp—are still not reproducing in large quantities, but the fundamental step has been taken.

In the field of animal health they have created, for the first time anywhere in the world, a vaccine against cattle ticks, for which the patent is now being registered in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and other countries. The development of a vaccine against porcine colibacillosis, a disease whose mortality rate among newborn pigs is 100 percent, is another notable scientific achievement. At the present time a more advanced version of this vaccine is being developed.

In the area of plant health, the use of biotechnology has resulted in the increase of plants' resistance to specific pests. A transgenic tobacco has been produced which resists the *Manduca septa* moth, an insect that destroys the tobacco leaf. With this genetic modification, the moth is killed without damaging the leaf; this is accomplished without altering the plant's characteristics.

A potato that is resistant to one of the three types of virus that affects its seeds is another CIGB achievement. They are now working to develop resistance against the other two. They have also produced a genetically altered cabbage with a moth-resistant gene.

They have also developed a transgenic sugarcane—the first time in the world that a genetically altered sugarcane has been developed—to have a sugarcane that is "more resistant to some pests."

Other Achievements

One of the CIGB's big achievements is the recombinant vaccine against hepatitis B, which is now used in over 20 countries; in Cuba it is given to all newborns as part of a nationwide program.

Another completely new product, now registered in Cuba and some other countries, but which is still not available on the market, is "skin growth factor," which is used to treat burns.

Some other important products include humanized monoclinal antibodies for treatment and, in the industrial area, new enzymes. One of these enzymes is "invertase sucrose" which transforms sugar into fructose; when fructose is used to sweeten or to improve flavor, the amount of sugar needed is reduced by 20 to 30 percent. The method and technology used for its industrial application are exclusively Cuban.

Against AIDS

On the second front against AIDS, its diagnosis, Cuba has three different techniques. The first was developed by the AIDS Research Laboratory, the second by the CIGB, and the third by the CIE [Immunoassay Center].

In discussing the CIGB technique, Dr. Limonta commented that "unique diagnostic methods have been developed. For example, we have the 'Aubio' system in which a drop of blood deposited on a plastic strip reacts with a series of genetically engineered components. We deposit on the plastic strip structures similar to the proteins of the components of the virus membrane, plus a gold-based dye. When the drop of blood comes into contact with the plastic strip, a change in coloration is produced, which indicates, simply by sight, whether the person has been infected."

This system has also been developed for use in diagnosing toxoplasmosis, hepatitis C, etc., and its use is now being expanded to other illnesses. It offers the advantage of not requiring special equipment to mix the blood and read the results, and does not even require a technician or electrical current, as the result is visible in ordinary natural light.

A different method has been developed by the CIE; it has substantially improved the classic method of immunodiagnosis by reducing the amounts of the blood samples and reagents by 10 percent.

The efficacy of this diagnostic method (Ultra Micro Elisa-HIV) has been demonstrated in many countries, as well as in international evaluations by the AIDS Reference Centers affiliated with the World Health Organization and PAHO [Pan American Health Organization], for example in Brazil, Canada, and also in Cuba itself.

Now the CIE is marketing an AIDS diagnostic kit in many countries, which anyone can buy in drugstores. The kit contains a paper filter, a pipette to extract a blood sample from the finger, and a form. The blood sample is allowed to dry on the filter. The person selects an anonymous personal code and lists it on the form (for example, ABC 345), and then sends the dried blood sample to a laboratory. An automated reader, like the Cuban SUMA, reads the test and determines with a margin of accuracy of virtually 100 percent whether that person is HIV-positive. The person later calls the laboratory, gives his anonymous personal code, and receives the results with absolute confidentiality and privacy.

This system is now used in many countries, including Spain, where its use has been approved by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs. The market price is on the average between 20 and 30 percent less than the price of other products, and the CIE provides technical personnel and technical, analytic, or instrumental assistance as needed.

This is very convenient, says the CIE's director of quality control, Dr. Rene Robaina, because "when an institution—like a blood bank—needs assistance, we are there. We provide complete attention that includes everything from the lab setup, personnel training, and later assistance."

Another advantage of this personalized AIDS diagnosis—registered internationally under the name of HIPERTEST—is that the paper filter containing the blood sample can be sent by mail or messenger, as it is highly stable. Once it is dry, it will last for months without the accuracy of the diagnosis being altered.

The HIPERTEST is not sold in Mexico, but "this could be done perfectly well; we simply have to find a transfer mechanism," says Robaina, "similar, for example, to what we have in the form of joint capital ventures in Russia, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, China, Ghana, etc."

The test is produced exclusively in the Immunoassay Center; the filter paper, which must have an extremely homogenous quality, is imported from Germany; the chemical reagents also come from the world market, while the biological reagents are mostly produced in Cuba. The technology is exclusively Cuban.

At the CNIC, medicines are being developed against diseases that occur because of the weakening of immunological defenses caused by AIDS.

"We are working on medications to alleviate AIDS; we still cannot cure it," says Dr. Carlos Gutierrez, "but we can try to get rid of the other diseases. We know there are medications that have slightly lengthened the lives of patients, and we are trying to do that. We are investigating the possibility of a combination of those medications, and we are now at a more advanced level than laboratory testing. From the laboratory we then go to bench testing, then to the pilot plant, and finally to the industrial plant. We are now at the bench testing stage. If we can produce this medication, we could extend patients' lives."

More Vaccines

The Finlay Institute, with an area of 23,000 square meters—unequalled in Latin America, and one of the most modern in the world—has 650 employees. It developed the world's first vaccine against meningitis, and in 1990 it was awarded a Gold Model by the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization for this achievement.

This vaccine was developed in barely five years. The researchers had to work with live microorganisms, creating a high risk of infection, as there is no other vaccine.

"We took all possible hygienic precautions," explains Dr. Concepcion Carma, director of the institute and coordinator of the research group that developed the vaccine, "but we had to work with large volumes of bacteria: we are talking of kilograms of live bacteria—that were grown in large 300-liter fermentation vats—and that was a real risk."

The first volunteers who used the vaccine were the researchers themselves, because "as a matter of ethical policy, we believed that what we could not put in ourselves we could not ask anyone else to try. And when we tested the vaccine in children, we applied the same ethical standard. Our own children were the first ones who used the vaccine. Only later did we go to field testing," explains the doctor.

This vaccine is now being used in a number of Latin American countries (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, etc.) where meningitis is prevalent. In Brazil over 20 million doses have been administered without any severe adverse reactions being reported. In the Cuban trials, the vaccine demonstrated an efficacy of 83 to 98 percent.

Another important line of research is the anticholera vaccine, which has already undergone laboratory testing with "important results." When the animal testing is completed, the three phases of trials with human beings will begin, followed by field testing, which will have to be done in some Latin American country, as Cuba is the only country in the hemisphere where cholera does not exist.

Against Myocardial Infarction

At the entry to the CNIC in Havana, the visitor can read a statement by Fidel Castro: "The future of our nation necessarily belongs to men of science."

In this institution which is the leader and promoter of Cuban biotechnology, that quotation has become a reality, as its major achievements attest.

Among them is PPG [Policosanol] which combats one of the principal risk factors for infarction: high cholesterol levels. PPG, which began to be marketed in August 1991, was developed from components found in sugarcane, whose solutions have properties that reduce certain types of cholesterol.

At this time 200,000 Cubans are using PPG regularly, and the results are positive in terms of the patients' physical, psychological, and even sexual reactions. The medication has now been approved for use in 12 countries, and its patent application is pending in 22 more countries. Each pill costs $1, and the minimum recommended dosage is one tablet a day. Other products whose action is similar to that of PPG (the "estatinas" [meaning unknown]) are from 1.5 to two times more expensive.

They are also trying to extract from sugarcane the raw material to produce phytosteroids, in order to manufacture steroidal hormones, the basic element of anticontraceptive pills. The CNIC has developed the new product beyond the laboratory stage, which includes testing with animals, and it is now in the pilot plant level.

Another of the island's natural resources that is being used in biomedicine and biotechnology is Cuba's coral reefs. Since the Cuban revolution has been careful with the nation's ecology, the corals are practically free from pollution. Dr. Gutierrez feels that the corals, in human medicine, are "better than synthetic materials," because synthetic materials introduce molecules that may be detrimental to the human organism; so at least in secondary aspects, natural materials outperform artificial materials.

Scientific studies have revealed that certain species of coral are materials that can be used for transplants or grafts, due to their great biocompatibility with human bone tissue, both because of their ideal architecture (a porous structure that is tridimensionally interconnected) and because of their physico-mechanical and biochemical properties (calcium phosphates).

Ozone Therapy

A treatment developed by the CNIC that is unique in the world is the use of ozone therapy in treating *retinitis pigmentosa* which, if left untreated, leads to blindness. With the use of ozone therapy the advance of the disease has been halted, and patients' sight has been improved: "We have been seeing patients for two years," says Dr. Gutierrez, "and they have not gotten worse, but improved. This has not been done anywhere else in the world."

Originally the equipment that converts oxygen into ozone was imported, and Cubans then developed innovative applications for ozone for both therapeutic and industrial uses.

At the CIMEQ [Medical and Surgical Research Center] ozone therapy is being used to dissolve components of blood clots. After five years of animal experiments, the treatment was applied to human beings. For coronary and cerebral disease, the technique is still in an experimental stage, but it is now being used for arterial obstructions in the lower extremities, as an alternative to dilation or laser treatment.

The results have been presented at international conferences in Vienna, Paris, Brazil, and Uruguay.

Another important line of research that the CNIC is pursuing is the use of monoclinal antibodies for diagnosing plant diseases; for example, there is a product that diagnoses the "tristeza" [babesia] virus which attacks citrus crops. This disease does not exist in Cuba, but purchasers of citrus fruit require proof that the fruit does not have this disease; by using this diagnostic tool, this is easy to demonstrate.

Medical Equipment

For diagnoses in clinical neurophysiology (of the central nervous system), computerized equipment has been developed, like the "Neuronica" or "Medicid." The "Neuronica" is used to measure visual and auditory perception and brain waves during sleep. The "Medicid" is very useful in analyzing the nervous system and cerebral functions (cerebral mapping); for example, it provides a computerized readout of electroencephalograms [EEG's] and displays the results on a monitor. Due to the U.S. embargo, Cubans have produced all the computer programs for this equipment, which is now in use in Mexico.

The "Diramic" is another computerized device that provides a rapid microbiological diagnosis; in four hours it determines with reliability the type of infection and its pattern of sensitivity to antibiotics (antibiogram), a diagnosis that requires 72 hours when conventional methods are used. By indicating the most effective antibiotics for a specific infection, it avoids the development of bacterial resistance, the ineffective use of antibiotics, and fatal outcomes in serious infections. Because of the short analysis time, the small volume that it requires, and its low cost, it is possible to corroborate the results as often as may be desirable.

Another advantage of the system is that it can be used not only for samples of isolated and purified strains of bacteria, but also for direct specimens from blood or urine cultures. In First World countries equipment with similar functions does exist, but it is four to five times more expensive. The "Diramic" is faster and cheaper, and Cuba is now able to export it.

The CIE has developed the SUMA ultramocroanalytic system for the low-cost analysis of laboratory samples. This is primarily useful in the diagnosis of infectious diseases, in blood banks, in epidemiology, and for various health programs.

The SUMA is the result of 18 years of research, and the CIE in Havana, the producer of the equipment, has SUMA laboratories in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The equipment is used to detect AIDS, hepatitis B, meningococcus, alphafetoproteins, etc. In Cuba the SUMA is used for the prenatal diagnosis of virtually all pregnant women to detect congenital malformations like neural tube defects and hypothyroidism.

Dengue and Cholera

The Pedro Kouri Tropical Medicine Institute, which is responsible for protecting the Cuban population from epidemics of infectious diseases, has kept any infectious disease from Africa from spreading in Cuba, despite the return home of tens of thousands of Cuban soldiers. To do so, highly efficient diagnostic tools have been developed.

There is a diagnostic system for dengue fever, which is now in use in many Latin American countries, reports Dr. Alina Llop. This rapid detection diagnostic kit for antibodies is sold commercially as a kit, and this is unique on the international market.

Similar kits have been developed to detect streptococcus group B, which provides results in three hours. In addition, analyses of meningitis infections and cholera, which with conventional methods take no less than four days, can be obtained in eight hours with the new Cuban molecular biology diagnostic systems. Cuba is probably the only country in Latin America that has these systems.

Another system of great importance for the Third World is a new diagnostic tool for amebiasis which, based on molecular biology, has a 100 percent accuracy rate. This obviously eliminates the uncertainties inherent in conventional methods.

There are also other biomedical and bioscientific areas, for example, the development of computers for medical imaging in which Cuba is one of the world leaders.

Young Scientists

The key factor that explains—in the widely held opinion of the directors interviewed—the spectacular advances of the Cuban Biotechnology School is the priority that has been given since 1959 to education and public health, thanks to which they now have a "critical mass" of young scientists of high quality, creativity, and discipline.

The human factor is actually the only element that differentiates the Cuban Biotechnology School from advanced laboratories in the United States, Europe, and Japan. All high-tech laboratories use the same technological equipment, which explains why a visitor who enters the technological facilities of the Cuban research and production centers will find the same type of Swiss bioreactors, huge Japanese electron microscopes, German tomographic equipment, and French mass spectrometers that their First World counterparts have. And the same thing is true for the chemical and biological raw materials that are not produced in Cuba.

The political determination of the Cuban state, the efficient network of cooperation between research and production institutions, the unusual combination of basic and applied research, as well as the strong insistence that the products must meet international standards of quality, are all factors that have contributed to this success.

Because of the U.S. embargo, Cuban scientific institutions have necessarily had to work with European and Japanese multinationals, with U.S. corporations remaining outside the commercial development of this enormous Cuban potential.

However, it is probable that the U.S. business elite will not tolerate this exclusion for much longer; instead, it will probably opt—as it did with Vietnam—to cooperate with Cuban biotechnology, and that will be the *raison d'etre* for putting an end to the embargo.

Cuba's continuing emergence from isolation throughout Latin America and Europe, the reconciliation with the Miami exiles, and the extraordinary internal reforms are all leading in the same direction. So if the cohesion of the Cuban model can resist for the next two or three years, Cuba will become—with the exception of Costa Rica—the only Latin American national project with solid foundations enabling it to leave underdevelopment behind and emerge from the "backyard" of the United States.

(For reviewing the medical aspects of this report, I wish to thank Dr. Luis Felipe Bojalil J., distinguished professor at the Metropolitan-Xochimilco Autonomous University, and a recipient of the Science Award from the Academy of Scientific Research.)

Curacao

Island Executive Council Resigns

BR0306135994 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 3 Jun 94 p 6

[Article by Stella van Rijn: "Entire Curacao Island Executive Council Resigns—Dissatisfaction in Liberia-Peters' Party Leads To Conflict"]

[Text] Curacao's entire Island Executive Council has resigned. All the deputies tendered their resignation yesterday [2 Jun] because they were in danger of losing majority support in the Island Council. The biggest party, the PNP [National People's Party] of former Prime Minister Liberia-Peters, will now try to form a new coalition.

Formally Curacao's Island Executive Council fell over an education issue. The deputee responsible for education wanted to expand the size of classes to 36 pupils in order to save money. However, there was considerable opposition to this measure within the education system and the trade unions. Three PNP members also threatened to vote against the proposal, which would have ended the coalition's majority in the Island Council. The deputees resigned before things reached this point. However, the real problem is primarily a party political affair. By voting against the measure, the three dissident PNP members wanted to express their dissatisfaction. After its defeat in the recent parliamentary elections, the PNP is in the middle of large-scale party reorganization. The three Island Council members would no longer be included on the PNP's list of candidates in next year's elections for a new Island Council. An attempt by the PNP leadership to talk with the dissidents has failed. They are now keeping their seats in their own names.

At present the PNP has seven seats. It is looking to work with its present coalition partner, the Democratic Party, and with the MAN [New Antilles Movement] opposition party. Early elections for the Island Council are legally impossible. The next elections are scheduled for April.

The Antillean Prime Minister Pourier has reacted with disappointment to the Island Executive Council's resignation. He was afraid that it would hamper the negotiations with Venezuela on the further existence of the refinery. "That is a crucial point about which we must reach agreement before the end of the month. The refinery is of national importance," Pourier said. Economic Affairs Minister Mendes had a different view. "The government does not have an outgoing status," he said. "We will continue to exercise our duties until a new coalition is formed."

Dominican Republic

Soldier Kills Haitian on Border

PA0506194794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1835 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 5 Jun (AFP)—A Haitian was killed yesterday in a scuffle with Dominican soldiers guarding the border between the two countries, General Luis Luna Paulino, chief of operations in the border town of Dajabon, confirmed to AFP this Sunday.

The general indicated the Haitian died from a bullet wound in the thigh when he was struggling with a soldier. This is the first violent death of a Haitian since the UN Security Council declared a total embargo against Haiti two weeks ago.

According to Gen. Luna Paulino, the incident occurred when a soldier tried to stop a group of Haitians who were returning to their country with a few liters of fuel. "The quickest were able to escape, but the soldier was able to stop one of them, with whom he began to struggle. The other Haitians then returned and in the scuffle to seize the weapon, the weapon was fired, wounding a Haitian in the thigh," the general said. "Considering that the weapon was a military weapon, it was too late when the ambulance arrived, even though first aid was provided," he added.

Gen. Luna Paulino also confirmed that some soldiers deployed on the border have been attacked, although he did not specify how many. "It seems the embargo is very hard for the Haitians and they now cross the border not only in search of fuel but also to take anything, a pitcher of water, ice...," he explained.

Haiti

UNHCR Official: 'Friends of Haiti' To Accept Refugees

PA0506161594 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Caracas, 5 Jun (AFP)—Starting this week, Haitians fleeing their country will be taken to three U.S. ships [not further identified] anchored off Jamaica, and those who can demonstrate refugee status will travel to any member nation of the group "Friends of Haiti," it was reported today.

Guy Prim, representative for Venezuela and the Caribbean of the UN Office of the High Commisssioner on Human Rights [UNHCR], said this international organization will pay for the operation, which is expected to amount to about $1.5 million.

In statements to the Caracas media, Prim said the difficult situation facing Haiti makes its 6.9 million inhabitants "potential asylum seekers." He announced that starting this week, Haitians who flee their country will be housed aboard three U.S. ships anchored off the Port of Kingston, Jamaica. One of the ships will serve as a hospital.

He added that two commissions will be tasked with classifying the guests. These commissions will include an UNHCR commission consisting of 10 jurists and 10 translators and a commission of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service consisting of 50 officials.

Prim said those who manage to demonstrate refugee status during an interview will be informed about the possibility of going to any member country of the group "Friends of Haiti." This group is composed of Canada, United States, France, Argentina, and Venezuela.

Prim, however, voiced his concern that Haitians might not want to go to other countries because they are obsessed with traveling to the United States. He bases his concern on a recent experience when a majority of a group of Haitians who failed to reach U.S. coasts returned to their native island.

In Venezuela, Prim added, the Social Pastoral Office of the Bishop's Conference reached an agreement with the UNHCR to offer lodging to Haitians welcomed by the administration of President Rafael Caldera. Yesterday, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas said his country will welcome refugees for as long as the difficult situation on the island persists.

Prime Minister Malval Supports Embargo

PA0406044894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0335 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Constitutional Prime Minister Robert Malval today changed his position and expressed support for the almost total embargo imposed against Haiti because he believes it is the only way to make the coupists relinquish power.

Measures similar to the almost total trade embargo were rejected by Malval last year when they had the support of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was deposed in September 1991 in a coup d'etat led by General Raoul Cedras. [passage omitted]

Last December, Malval distanced himself from Aristide due to conflicting opinions concerning negotiations with the coupist military, which in September 1991 forced the constitutional president into exile. [passage omitted]

During an interview on Radio Metropole, Malval said Cedras, chief of the Armed Forces, is responsible for the crisis in Haiti, a country subject to an almost total embargo imposed by the United Nations on 21 May. [passage omitted]

Legislators, who support the coupists, appointed Judge Emile Jonassaint as the "provisional president" on 11 May, despite a UN warning to the military to restore institutional order or face an embargo.

Malval: Cedras 'Has Nothing To Offer'

PA0406005794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2313 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 3 Jun (EFE)—Today Haiti's constitutional prime minister, Robert Malval, said General Raoul Cedras, who toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991, has nothing to offer the country. According to Malval, the only thing the coupist general can offer Haiti is a succession of puppet governments lacking legal or constitutional foundations.

"Cedras represents Duvalierism (in reference to the dictator Jean Claude Duvalier). He is a good timer and a visionless epicurean," Malval said on Radio Metropole. He said Cedras is presently "cornered," adding that the Haitian military does not understand the crisis in the country goes beyond a domestic problem and is viewed by the Clinton administration as a U.S. foreign policy problem. He added Clinton will soon make his policy known to the coupist military. "Their power rests on rusty bayonets," Malval said.

He said the "de facto" government has not taken anything from Aristide because "we never intended to control the state apparatus." Malval remarked, "It cannot be said they have taken from us something we never had."

Concerning his change of views regarding support of the total embargo imposed against Haiti, Malval said in September 1993 everyone in Haiti and the international community believed in Cedras' good faith. He added the events that subsequently unfolded proved "the general has no word." The Haitian prime minister said, "Any negotiation with someone who does not respect his own word is useless. The only solution is to be firm."

He added Cedras "had in his hands all of the cards for himself and the country to overcome the crisis, but he, unfortunately, confused his ghosts with reality." Malval concluded that Haiti is experiencing the most serious crisis in its history since its independence in 1804.

Aristide Denies Supporting Military Intervention

FL0406002694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2000 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Information we received last night stated that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had sought military action, an operation, as it was reported by a U.S. newspaper, to cut off the Haitian military power.

According to the newspaper, however, President Aristide said he would not want this force, which would come to chase away the military, to remain in the country. Today, President Aristide seems to have reconsidered his decision, or at least has denied having made it. Rothschild Francois has further details:

[Begin Francois] Indeed, in a statement just made by President Aristide on the premises of Trans-Africa in Washington, he stated that he never asked for U.S. military intervention in Haiti as a solution to the crisis. Mr. Aristide, speaking before a group of reporters, following a lunch in his honor hosted by Rindall Robinson on the premises of Trans-Africa, stated: We are not seeking a military occupation in Haiti, adding that if he asked for military intervention in Haiti, the parliament would dismiss him in accordance with the Haitian Constitution. The president said, however, some action could help free the nation from the bandits now occupying the political scene in favor of a return to democracy in Haiti.

The president-in-exile said some quick, determined action could be taken to chase out the military, within the framework of the Governors Island agreement. Aristide said he would not give details on what he calls quick action. He says the international community knows what to do in this case.

Mr. Aristide favors sending the UN technical mission to Haiti, as provided for in the Governors Island agreement, and his own immediate return. He also asks that the reform program outlined in the Governors Island agreement be applied. How long should the international community stay in Haiti? The president-in-exile stated that, according to the Governors Island agreement, the international community would spend six months, which would be renewable. We are ready to work with the international community to reach these objectives, he said.

He pointed out that the above four steps represent the process for the return of democracy to Haiti. President-in-exile Aristide indicates that following the restoration of democracy in the country, there would be national reconciliation, which would help establish political stability, necessary to progress in Haiti, and also that this situation would help build a nation based on unity and offering hope. Then Haiti would be able to take care of its refugees and stop the boat people from going to Miami, Florida. Aristide also said that when he was in power, the situation in the country was correct. Let us listen to the statements President Aristide just made in Washington, during which he said that he never asked for a military intervention in Haiti to solve the crisis:

[Begin Aristide recording, in English] We do not seek military occupation. If I were to ask for military intervention, I would be impeached under my Constitution. [In French] Be clear, because I am clear. I did not ask for a military intervention. I did not ask for a military intervention. [repeats] There is my answer, after correcting your question.

We are working toward the restoration of democracy, which implies a country where reconciliation must shine like the sun, where justice must be the sun that without revenge, without violence pleases everyone. Because from there, we can live in a state of law. Everyday, during these 32 months, we have tried our best to explore the horizons of this peaceful strategy. That is why, while we are pleased to see the application of the embargo, and hope it will be completely kept and respected.

We are also hoping—within the scope of the agreement signed on 3 July 1993—that some action will be taken so we do not have to pay for the luxury of getting lost in statements when actions are necessary and indispensable, to save the lives of those who are eaten by pigs after being killed by the military, the lives of those who are eaten by dogs after being killed by the military. This was reported by those who visited Haiti within the framework of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In this context, united with the international community, united with the U.S., Canadian, French, Latin American, and Caribbean friends, we would like to walk together in order, along with the Haitian people, to save lives, the life of every man and of every woman. [end recording]

Union Chief Says 'Patriots' Ready To Attack U.S.

FL0306202094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] There is a threat of U.S. military intervention in Haiti. The task would not be easy for the United States. Everything would be a surprise. The president of the Independent Drivers Union has unveiled a strategy to knock out the great star-studded power. Pierre Malvoisin relies heavily on the participation of the Haitians of the diaspora, Haitians who do not spare their help. Haitians here and in the United States will move in to attack at the first alert:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Malvoisin] Father Aristide has asked for intervention, but 1915 and 1994 are not the same. (?The circumstances are quite different). In 1915, there were no Haitians in the United States; today, there must be 1.5 million Haitians in the United States. We have....[pauses] there are many patriots in the United States. If the Americans land in Haiti now...[pauses] I do not say...[pauses] Haiti is a little country of 27,000 square km, but the United States has 16 million square kilometers. Haiti will perish; it will be the end of Haiti. I believe it will also be the end of the United States because once the Americans land, our patriots there will blow up many U.S. buildings, in Los Angeles, Chicago, California, San Francisco, Florida, New York, Texas. They will lose many things. Even NASA will be attacked.

[Unidentified correspondent] Malvoisin, is there a true plan to consolidate this work?

[Malvoisin] Yes. [end recording]

He added in a firm tone of voice: Everything is ready and has been set up; it only remains to wait for the orders. The leader of the independent drivers called the United States ungrateful. He recalled the U.S. war of independence. He insisted on Savannah. He is sorry about the fate of the great neighbor that has (?shouted): Bound for nothingness! Malvoisin does not understand that a neighbor has decided to solve the problems of a friendly country with force. This statement or firm position has come to support the argument of U.S. Professor Jack Tyle. He said the withdrawal of the U.S. military forces would be more difficult than the landing. This is a way to repeat Jean de La Fontaine: One sees very well how to get into this den, but one does not see how to get out of it. As for union leader Pierre Malvoisin, he will get out of it with a haughty head and proudly.

Episcopal Conference Urges Aristide, Cedras To Meet

FL0406010694 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Haitian Episcopal Conference has recommended a meeting between President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide and General Cedras in order to solve the crisis. Without naming them, the Haitian bishops invited the protagonists in the crisis to a frank, courageous dialogue in order to save the country. This proposal was included in a message issued at the celebration of Pentecost. Ansy Rose Resignac filed a report:

[Begin Resignac recording] A meeting between the Haitian leaders in exile in the United States and the military authorities in Port-au-Prince is, in the eyes of the Haitian bishops, the only gesture that can save the people. They even go so far as to present this approach as an imperative, a divine proposal. The Lord has mandated it, they say in their message.

In an effort to invite the leaders of the two camps to stop glaring defiantly at each other, the Episcopal Conference cites as an example the meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, between black and white South Africans who just turned a new page in their country's history through multi-racial, free, democratic elections. A frank, courageous dialogue is what the Haitian bishops suggest. They are calling on the protagonists in the crisis born of the coup d'etat to put their heads together, to mutually accept each other, and to make a gesture to save the country from disaster, destruction, and death. Our people are dying; our country is on the brink of ruin; a foreign armed intervention is threatening to destroy our nation. These are several observations that increase the concerns of the Haitian bishops. They express their pain and reprobation over everything that is bathing the country with blood.

In the face of this challenge, can one hesitate about meeting? Can one refuse to make the gesture on which Haiti's survival depends?

The Episcopal Conference questions the difficulties of realizing such a meeting. Is it not because of personal interests? Have personal or group interests become the substitute for the common good? Is it not because the will for protecting international interests paralyzes the pursuit of national interests? In the Haitian bishops' opinion, in order to help the country find its stability and dynamism, self-denial, increased soul, and a burst of evangelical love are necessary. The time has come, concludes the Episcopal Conference, to transcend the self and reach out toward others. [end recording]

Paper: Ban on Ministers' Departure Linked to Funds

FL0306194694 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELISTE in French No. 34765 31 May-2 Jun 94 pp 1, 31

[Text] On 31 May, provisional President Emile Jonassaint's government banned members of the resigning government of Prime Minister Malval from leaving national territory. The Interior and National Defense Ministry issued a press release on national television that "advises the border posts and those most concerned that the formal order banning departure is now applied to all who must explain their management of public funds."

This order, which also concerns all high-ranking employees appointed by President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide or by Malval, aims at officially figuring the country's accounts. The press release asserts that the measure is taken "in the legitimate interest of guaranteeing the interests of public administration and those of the Haitian nation." The former authorities must present an official discharge regarding their management when they leave the territory. A number of Malval government ministers are already abroad, according to some informed sources. Father Aristide ordered the same measure after the election, which was denounced at the time as political revenge.

Jamaica

Minister Clarifies Stand on Processing Haitian Refugees

FL0306143894 Kingston RJR Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Jamaica will not be expected to bear any cost as a result of the processing of Haitians on U.S. ships in Jamaican waters. This is established in a memorandum of understanding about the establishment of [words indistinct]. The minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Paul Robertson, says he is making it clear that in no way will existing Jamaican resources be diverted as a result of the arrangement. He said the processing of Haitian refugees for entry to the United States will take place aboard a U.S. vessel which will be moored about a mile off Lime Cay, above Kingston Harbor. The ship on which no processing will take place will operate closer to the harbor. Dr. Robertson said Jamaica is putting itself on the line because people are dying, people are being killed every day in Haiti [word indistinct], and we in the Caribbean have to do more than just [word indistinct] talk. He says the operation is expected to begin within 10 to 14 days, during which time Jamaica will be making preparations (?with the) U.S. assembling its personnel after which [words indistinct] are expected to remain for six months.

The opposition Jamaica Labor Party is opposed to the move, but the Republican Party is supporting it. The Republicans think, however, that the United Nations and the United States (?should) do more to resolve the situation in Haiti. And the Caribbean human rights network, Caribbean Rights, has welcomed the decision by Jamaica to allow the processing of Haitian refugees in territorial waters.

Senator Backs Hanging Following U.S. Tourist's Death

FL0306175794 Kingston RJR Network in English 1700 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Opposition Senator Dr. [name indistinct] has called for the immediate resumption of hanging. Speaking in the Senate a short while ago, he said the country is in a state of crisis and the security budget needed to reflect the seriousness of the situation. Dr. [name indistinct] was speaking against the background of the recent killing of an American tourist in Runaway Bay. [Words indistinct] (?due to the fact) that a television crew from the BBC was now in Jamaica with regards to that crime. He said their coverage of it was likely to do major damage to Jamaica's reputation.

Salinas: Mexico Will Not Be 'Springboard for Exports'

PA0506184294 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has said Mexico will not be used as a springboard for exports of other nations. Investments and production must be in the country. Here is a report by Jaime Guerrero.

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] For the federal government, there is no alternative. Either one invests and produces in Mexico or the products of other countries will not be able to enter the North American free trade zone. President Salinas clearly stated that our country will not be a mere springboard for other nations to export to the United States.

[Salinas] That is why these investments, especially German investments, are taking place now so as to take advantage of that opportunity, which the treaty has opened and which in fact means more jobs for our fellow countrymen.

[Guerrero] The president spoke after inaugurating the first industrial complex of auto parts in Puebla. The inauguration came during his tour dealing with electricity services. In the past six years, the electric power generating capacity increased more than 35 percent. This is equivalent to supplying the Federal District and Mexico, Nuevo Leon, and Puebla States with electricity. In short, electric power service in the country is guaranteed.

[Salinas] Without sufficient electric power, the foundations for additional economic growth for Mexico could not have been laid.

[Guerrero] Salinas inaugurated the San Lorenzo Almecatla electricity substation in Puebla. Afterwards, in Guerrero State, he inaugurated the Presidente Plutarco Elias Calles thermoelectric plant. It is the biggest in Latin America and represents an investment of $2.5 billion. In this tour, President Salinas inaugurated three infrastructure projects which received investments from three different countries.

[Salinas] We do not depend on either a single market or a single investor.

[Guerrero] The results of this administration in the area of electricity service are positive. Twenty-one million Mexicans began receiving service and by the end of the government's six-year term, 95 percent of the population will have electricity. [end recording]

Salinas: NAFTA Prevents Reexport

PA0406214394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 53

[Article by Emilio Lomas]

[Text] Cuautlancingo, Puebla, 2 Jun—President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has said that the North American Free Trade Agreement has clearly established the so-called "place-of-origin regulations," and, as a result, Mexico has not become a springboard for the reexport of goods produced by other nations.

At the inauguration of the El Vocho Industrial Park in San Lorenzo Almecatla, the chief executive added that this agreement will considerably decrease the outflow of workers from Mexico to the United States and Canada. Workers will no longer have to migrate to places that offer employment, because new opportunities are opening up in the country, Salinas said.

On the second day of a tour focusing on the electricity issue, the president added that foreign investment in this industrial zone during the first four months of 1994 was higher than in 1992 and 1993: "This means more jobs and greater possibilities of competing in the industrial area in other markets."

He inaugurated the San Lazaro Almecatla Power Substation and symbolically inaugurated five other substations and five transmission lines. The president of the Republic said that in the past six years the electric sector increased its production capacity by more than 35 percent.

In the company of Emilio Lozoya Thalmann, secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industry; Carlos Rojas, secretary of social development; and Guillermo Guerrero Villalobos, director of the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), Salinas added that during his administration 21 million new Mexicans have received electric services and that 10 rural communities are being incorporated into the system each day. He said that without sufficient electric energy the country would not have been able to establish such bases for additional economic growth "as the ones that we can now expect to have in Mexico."

Eduardo Arreola Valdes, CFE deputy director for programming, said that 5,763 km of high-tension transmission lines have been put into service and that 53 power substation have been built during the 1989-1994 period. This, he added, represents increases of 20.7 and 25.9 percent, respectively, compared to the facilities that existed at the start of this six-year term.

President Salinas also inaugurated the President Plutarco Elias Calles thermoelectric plant in La Union, Guerrero State. There he said that 95 percent of Mexicans have electric energy. He pointed out that this thermoelectric plant is the largest of its kind in Latin America.

He said that 7.5 billion new pesos were invested in this plant, which will use fuel or coal, depending on the best operational conditions. Salinas added that once the construction of this plant, which was started during this six-year term, is concluded, it will contribute to the national electric system more than 10 percent of the country's total capacity.

Secretary Emilio Lozoya Thalmann said during this ceremony that production capacity increased by 8,306 megawatts during the 1989-1994 period, from 23,554 to 31,860 megawatts, that is, a 35 percent increase. In addition, works that were started during this period will add 3,766 megawatts and will be operational between 1995 and 1997.

Lozoya added that recent estimates indicate that about 8,000 megawatts need to be added to the current electric production generation capacity within the next 11 years. This, he said, requires significant financing that calls for private involvement in the production of electric energy without implying that the state will abandon its constitutional responsibility for providing this public service.

Secofi Official on NAFTA, Tariff Exemptions

PA0406044194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 31 May 94 p 45

[Report by Robert Gonzalez Amador]

[Text] Hermino Blanco Mendoza, under secretary for international trade relations at the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat (Secofi), acknowledged yesterday that Mexico's productive sector has expressed its opposition to attempts to lower tariffs in advance on 155 goods included in the Free Trade Pact (TLC).

The official stated that, following discussions between Secofi authorities and Mexican manufacturers, "very few articles will undergo tariff exemptions adjustments, since the position adopted by Mexican manufacturers and farmers is not to negotiate with respect to this aspect."

Yesterday, Herminio Blanco participated in hearings by the Senate's Trade and Industrial Development and Foreign Relations Commissions in which he provided an explanation with respect to the status of the free trade agreement between Mexico and Costa Rica.

Departing from the hearing's agenda, Angel Sergio Guerrero, Durango State PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] senator, said that lowering duties in advance on 155 items included in the TLC—announced in the 22 May Official Gazette—"would be similar to substantially modifying the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], which is of concern since adjustments have been suggested by one of the parties to the agreement." The senator asked: What's the reason for this attempt to propose tariff exemptions in advance?

The Secofi official explained to the PRI senator that "there should be no apprehensions because the treaty allows lowering tariffs in advance if requested by one of the parties and if the other two are in agreement."

Blanco added that Secofi had analyzed the issue ever since the announcement was published in the Official Gazette. He also indicated that Secofi is expected to conclude discussions on the issue by 23 June. However, Blanco pointed out that the position adopted by the country's productive sector is not to negotiate lowering tariffs in advance.

Under Secretary Blanco stated that of the 155 items on which tax exemptions had been proposed "per Mexico's request," 107 were proposed by Mexico, 43 by the United States, and seven by Canada. These items represent a "relatively low bilateral trade flow," which represents 3.8 percent of Mexico's exports to the United States and 2.8 percent of U.S. sales to Mexico.

The U.S. counterpart, Blanco added, requested tariff exemptions for items such as potatoes, beans, cheese, and wine. However, Mexican growers pointed out that exemptions in advance are unthinkable in these cases. Hermino Blanco explained to the senators that the final outcome of this process will be that "very few items will receive tariff exemptions before the dates established by the free trade agreement."

In a meeting with federal representatives, Hector Teran, a PAN [National Action Party] member and Baja California senator, indicated that along the northern border "there are problems realizing the benefits of the free trade agreement." He also voiced his doubts with respect to the ever-growing trade deficit's being profitable to the country, saying that, on the contrary, the imbalance in the exchange of goods could undermine the currency's parity during the next few months.

In reply, Blanco pointed out that the trade deficit, which totaled $4.317 billion during the first quarter, is natural and indicated that Mexico is a country that imports capital goods and raw materials essential to its development. He added that this past April, for the first time, monthly exports to the United States surpassed $4 billion. He also proposed that Secofi exercise more vigilance in order to expedite export transactions, although he insisted that, regarding deregulation, "many things have changed favorably."

During the hearing, which was presided over by Hidalgo Senator Humberto Lugo Gil, PRI bloc coordinator in the Chamber of Senators, 10 legislators intervened to request more information with respect to the free trade agreement between Mexico and Costa Rica signed this past 5 April by both nations' presidents.

In his presentation before the question and answer period, Herminio Blanco Mendoza pointed out that, as a result of the agreed upon trade liberalization program, Mexico will be able to export, starting on the day the treaty comes into force, all goods that Costa Rica does not produce. Thus, 70 percent of nonagricultural Mexican sales to that nation and 75 percent of Costa Rican exports to Mexico will be tariff-free.

In reply to a question by Morelos Senator Angel Ventura Valle, the Secofi official said that agricultural exports from Costa Rica to Mexico will not harm national production. Costa Rican coffee and plantains were excluded from the agreement, and the elimination of tariffs on Costa Rican corn and beans will be implemented in 15 years, he added.

Sinaoloa Senator Gustavo Guerrero said that produce growers in his state worry about the possibility of illegal transshipment of tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, and other produce from the United States to Mexico. Blanco Mendoza said that the rules on the origin of products specified in the agreement are clear. He added that Mexican authorities, in coordination with national producers, will ensure that this type of illegal practices do not occur.

Herminio Blanco Mendoza said that the trade agreements reached on the American Continent in past years constitute a firm step toward the establishment of genuine regional trade integration. "After decades of speeches there is finally progress," he added.

Secofi Official Warns Against Bilateral Trade Accords

PA0506025994 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 18

[Report by Leticia Rodriguez Lopez]

[Text] The Mexican Government rejects the proliferation of bilateral trade agreements because they would cause "excessive confusion" with merchandise-origin rules and risk trade triangularization, which in the end would threaten free trade in Latin America.

Jaime Serra Puche, head of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [Secofi], guaranteed before representatives of 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives of international organizations, that the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] "has not weakened and has instead strengthened our ties with other countries and areas."

When inaugurating yesterday the 20th Latin American Council meeting of SELA [Latin American Economic System] at the ministerial level, Serra Puche confirmed Mexico's commitment to Latin America and its position that the trilateral trade treaty with North America is open for regional countries to join.

The Secofi secretary said in an interview that the new World Trade Organization (OMC), which will replace GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], should draft clear and open rules, as well as demand that they be complied with to avoid unfair practices and trade wars.

He stressed that, with the proliferation of bilateral agreements in Latin America, there would be different merchandise-origin rules, which would induce the triangularization of products and, in turn, hinder area free trade.

In this connection, he reiterated that Mexico's position is that, with the expansion of NAFTA, clear rules must be defined so that new members or a group of countries may join, "instead of having a proliferation of bilateral relations or regional agreements." Even though Mexico has established bilateral agreements, all are compatible with NAFTA, because they serve the same areas and have rules of origin that are very alike, which avoid any triangularization problems, he said.

Serra Puche explained that, excepting Chile, the agreements that have been negotiated in the area include goods, services, and investments. The same criteria has been set to determine the rules of origin, fight unfair trade practices, and standardize, regulate, and respect intellectual property, among other topics.

During SELA's inauguration activities, which end today at the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat, the Secofi secretary stressed that the liberalization of trade between countries with economic links, with stable rules, allows safe access to markets and long- term project planning.

Likewise he said that the liberalization of trade allows countries to use more efficient operating scales, take advantage of market niches, and access a broad range of technological options—all of which favor productive flexibility.

In general, it offers clearer market signals, which ease efficient economic decisionmaking, and increases in the general level of competitiveness among the countries that participate in the free trade agreements.

After stating that, following two years of treaty operations between Mexico and Chile, trade has increased 86 percent, he recalled that on 13 June President Salinas will sign in Colombia a free trade agreement with the Group of Three (Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela). Serra Puche also spoke of the solidarity efforts that Latin American countries must make to attend to the needs of the more-impoverished population and achieve healthy and sustained growth.

Puche: Stance on Place-of-Origin Regulations

PA0306233094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2026 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX)— Jaime Serra Puche, Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary, reiterated today his country's stance favoring other nations' joining the North American Free Trade Agreement under the condition that this be done with clear place-of-origin regulations.

Mexico supports the expansion of the treaty as long as confusion about the place of origin is avoided, the official stated while inaugurating the two-day ministerial meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA). In his inaugural speech, Serra Puche recalled that the text of the treaty that entered into force on 1 January includes Article 2204 that considers the possibility that another country or group of countries may join the North American commercial zone.

Serra Puche explained that with the proliferation of bilateral agreements there will be different regulations on the place of origin, which may cause a triangulation and hamper regional commerce. He stressed that commercial liberalism among the countries that become joined with clear and stable rules yields the benefits of assured access to markets and the design of long-term projects in companies.

It also allows, he said, a broad and varied demand and the use of more efficient scales of cooperation and of a broad range of technological options that favor productive flexibility. "The increase in competitiveness stimulates investments, promotes an increase in exports, and creates productive and remunerated jobs, something that entails economic growth," the secretary indicated.

Mexico is not on the sidelines of these processes, and in 1990 President Carlos Salinas de Gortari voiced his concern about insufficiencies regarding integration and proposed specific measures to expand the Latin American market, he added.

The commerce and industrial development secretary noted that the establishment of multinational economic openings responds to the demands of the world economy and the permanent search to raise the competitiveness of the countries of the region. As proof of that, he said, we have the negotiations that have been started with several area countries, which led to a free trade agreement with Chile.

The official announced that, within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit to be held in Cartagena de Indias, President Salinas de Gortari will sign on 13 June the G-3 [Group of Three] trade agreement with his Colombian and Venezuelan counterpart.

Trade negotiations with the Central American countries are continuing, and the negotiations with Bolivia may conclude in the coming weeks, he added. On the trade agreement with Chile, Serra Puche commented that, according to a joint evaluation commission, there has been a two-way flow of exchange amounting to 86 percent since the treaty entered into force in 1992.

During the ministerial meeting taking place at the Foreign Secretariat with representatives from 27 countries, Serra Puche pointed to the role SELA plays as the appropriate forum to reflect on the challenges that Latin American integration entails.

Accord Establishes Definition of 'Country of Origin'

PA0406015994 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO (ANALISIS Supplement) in Spanish 1 Jun 94 p 2A

[Text of "Agreement" published in DIARIO OFICIAL DE LA FEDERACION on 31 May]

[Text] The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development, Secofi, presents the agreement establishing the rules for the determination of the country of origin of imported merchandise and the conditions [provisiones] for its certification with regard to compensatory quotas. Article No. 3 of annex I of the Rules of Origin explains that the definition of the place of origin of goods will be made in accordance with the following:

1. The country of origin of a good will be the one where one of the following holds true:
a) that the goods be fully obtained [obtenido] or produced there;
b) that the goods be exclusively produced from national materials; or
c) that each foreign material incorporated in the goods comply with the applicable change in tariff classification established by the Appendix on Specific Rules of this agreement, that it meet other applicable requisites of this appendix, and that it also meet all other applicable requisites of this agreement.

2. When the country of origin cannot be determined through the provisions specified in paragraph No. 1 [fraccion], the country of origin of a good will be the country or countries of origin of the material or materials that give basic shape [caracter esencial] to that good. The provisions of this paragraph will not be applicable to a good specifically described as a set or a whole [conjunto] in keeping with the nomenclature of the Tariff of the Law on General Import Tax or to a good whose tariff classification is that of a set, or a whole, or a compound good, in keeping with general rule No. 3, contained in article No. 2 of the aforementioned law.

3. When the country of origin cannot be determined through the provisions of paragraphs Nos. 1 and 2 of this article, or a good is described specifically as a set or whole by the nomenclature of the Tariff of the Law on General Import Tax, or a good whose tariff classification is that of a set or whole or a compound good, according to general rule No. 3 of article 2 of the aforementioned law, the country or countries of origin of that good will be the country or countries of all materials that make it up. The provisions of this paragraph will prevail over the provisions of the Appendix on Specific Rules of this agreement.

4. When there is no specific rule on the country of origin for goods in the Appendix on Specific Rules for this agreement, and without detriment to the provisions contained in subparagraphs A and B of paragraph No. 1 of this article and without detriment to paragraphs Nos. 2 and 3 of this article, the country of origin of that good

will be the one where the last significant transformation that merits a tariff reclassification occurred.

European Union Denies Trade Treaty With Mexico

PA0506004394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1353 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Brussels, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The European Union [EU] today denied reports that it is going to sign a free trade agreement with Mexico which, according to an EU spokesman, would be viewed as "discriminatory" by other Latin American states.

The spokesman, as well as Mexican diplomatic sources, has dismissed the possibility of including a special clause pertaining to Mexico in the final document on Latin America, which will be signed by the European foreign ministers at their summit in Corfu. "It is unrealistic to believe that relations with Latin America will focus on Mexico, because that could create political problems with other states in the region," said a spokesman for Manuel Marin, commissioner for EU development.

According to this source, there is "disagreement" within the EU regarding Mexico's status within the context of relations with Latin America, because of the North American Free Trade Agreement that the country signed with the United States and Canada.

Mexican diplomats have denied the existence of official documents that substantiate the alleged negotiation of a free trade agreement between the two countries, as the Spanish newspaper "EL PAIS" reported in its Friday edition.

Nevertheless, the newspaper explained that within the EU there are "groups" that have a specific political interest in Mexico, but countries such as Spain and Portugal are opposed because they fear a souring of relations with the rest of the region. "It is very unlikely that Spain will support the decision to give Mexico special treatment, because that would prompt other Latin American countries to request similar treatment," the spokesman told NOTIMEX.

Portugal, meanwhile, has said that it will request a special agreement with Brazil if the European Commission decides to sign a treaty of association with Mexico. According to EL PAIS, the EU is planning to make qualitative changes in its relations with Mexico during the summit of heads of government and foreign ministers scheduled for 24 and 25 June on the Greek island of Corfu. The newspaper asserts that plans are taking shape to negotiate an industrial free trade agreement similar to the one the EU is currently discussing with Morocco.

Climate 'Not Propitious' for Tariff Elimination

PA0406043994 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 18

[Article by Lucia Domville]

[Text] Currently, the political climate is not propitious for the Mexican Government to speed up the elimination of tariffs being demanded by the United States and Canada. Consequently, sources of the National Foreign Trade Council [Conacex] and the National Association of Mexican Importers and Exporters warned that the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat [Secofi] will not begin negotiations until after federal elections take place in Mexico.

Between June and September, the governments of the three countries will seek to correct NAFTA administrative deficiencies because there are bureaucratic hitches that still hinder the trade of products, representatives of local and U.S. chambers added. Businessmen also stated that the month granted by the Secofi to producers to conduct consultations and make the necessary studies is not enough.

Since October 1993, the Mexican, U.S., and Canadian Governments agreed to convene a new negotiation on NAFTA sections under Article 302, part three of the agreement.

Government representatives from the three countries held talks on the process from the latter part of 1993 until 23 May 1994, the date on which the list of 157 products they decided to include in the first round of negotiations was published on the Official Gazette and the U.S. Federal Register. The list is a compendium of the proposals made by the private sectors of the three countries. Mexico seeks the expeditious elimination of tariffs for over 90 products, the United States for 47, and Canada for 31.

The U.S. list was the most modified because it dropped down to 47 products, after the United States had announced, last March, its intention to change schedules and tariffs for over 600 line items.

Private sector sources revealed that Mexico has maintained higher tariffs for many products of U.S. interest, and underscored that the counterpart should keep in mind that the differences between the economies of the commercial partners were supposed to be reflected precisely in the schedules agreed upon for the elimination of tariffs.

To the contrary, the number of tariff reductions that Mexico would like the United States to implement in an accelerated manner seeks to dismantle the protectionist mechanisms in force in that country, because the United States has not carried out a "unilateral liberalization."

The resolution published in the Mexican Official Gazette indicates that within the month following the publication, Mexican productive sectors will determine which products with lower tariffs benefit Mexican businessmen. Sources consulted said then that two weeks after investigations conclude, Herminio Blanco, under secretary for international trade negotiations of the Commerce and Industries Development Secretariat, is expected to meet with U.S. and Canadian counterparts Rufus Yerxa and John Weekes, respectively, for a "give and take."

Since 23 May, representatives of the local chambers of products involved expressed their opposition to a process to eliminate tariffs. Within Conacex and ANIERM, businessmen have emphasized that the month designated for consultations is not enough and that it is rather hasty since NAFTA has only been in effect for five months.

The businessmen explained that, in addition to confusion among industrialists who have not recovered yet from the shock caused by the implementation of NAFTA, the political situation Mexico is currently facing is too precarious to implement an accelerated elimination of tariffs. The anonymous sources anticipated that the Mexican Government will not engage in any negotiations until after the 21 August elections.

"These are difficult political times, and the Mexican business sector is in no shape to conduct negotiations, a source added. However, they mentioned that representatives of the sectors involved in the process will have to ask Secofi for an extension. Meanwhile, representatives of U.S. and Mexican industrial chambers stressed that, thus far, U.S. and Mexican authorities will try to solve and eliminate the bureaucratic problems that hinder foreign trade.

Such topics as paperwork and excessive bureaucracy will be reviewed. Problems classifying products into line items have occurred in both the United States and Mexico, because each country has a different set of regulations. The use of certificates-of-origin and place-of-origin regulations constitute nontariff obstacles that have hindered trade in North America.

Salinas Trip Seen as Congressional Support for Cuba

PA0406034494 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 48

[By Salvador Rico]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, after the Mexican Chamber of Deputies authorized President Carlos Salinas' trip to Cuba and Colombia, the deputies agreed to donate one day's salary to buy oil and to ship it to the Caribbean island.

The proposal for this donation was made by the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] deputies, and it was immediately backed by the legislators of the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD]. Regarding this cooperation, deputy Rodolfo Becerril Straffon said "it is of a symbolic nature, regardless of how much is collected" and "it implies Mexican congressional solidarity with the Cuban people."

In yesterday's session, the PRD bench denounced the fact that a former president of the National Association of the Processing Industry, Vicente Gutierrez Camposeco, is probably trying to secure votes illegally, and for this reason the General Council of the Federal Electoral Institute has been asked to carry out an investigation "to establish where its financial resources come from and whether such financing represents an electoral crime."

Deputy Jesus Martin del Campo said Gutierrez Camposeco sent a personal letter to businessmen urging them to bury their "political paralysis" and encourage their workers to vote "to avoid postelection conflicts." Gutierrez also sent the businessmen a biographical sketch of PRI presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo.

Regarding President Salinas' visit request, the PRD bench said it agrees with the trip, but Deputy Martha Maldonado Zepeda made the following observation: "We believe it is necessary for the Mexican Government to change the ritual practiced by four administrations: a presidential visit to Cuba at the end of the six-year-term in office, when it cannot have any domestic weight and is a mere formality."

The PRD bench proposed that Salinas should discuss the need to fully reincorporate Cuba into the inter-American system as befits the new dynamics of international relations at the Fourth Ibero-American Summit to take place in Colombia."

Maldonado also said that "our solidarity must be expressed with specific and congruent actions, regardless of how small they might look." Deputy Maldonado noted that not permitting Cuba's integration to the San Jose Pact does not contribute to strengthening a modern international relations framework.

The authorization granted by the Chamber of Deputies allows the chief of state to be absent from the country, as of 10 June, for five days. It has been reported that in Cuba, Salinas will meet with Fidel Castro and, in Colombia, he will participate in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit where the issues of trade and integration as elements for development in the continent will be analyzed.

Regarding the presidential trip, the first to take the floor was Popular Socialist Party [PPS] Deputy Martin Tavira Uriostegui who referred to the recent visit of U.S. Congressman Roberto Torricelli to Mexico. He said: "In a cynical fashion, Mr. Torricelli is demanding that the Mexican people junk their nationalistic spirit, which is the result of lengthy battles for liberty and independence. He has come here to see what benefits he can derive from the country at a moment when we face some political problems, problems that only we can resolve, with sovereignty and nationalism."

In expressing the PPS' support for the presidential trip, Tavira said Salinas' visits are to promote economic, scientific, technological, and cultural integration with Cuba and Colombia.

In responding to the PRD comment, Deputy Becerril said Salinas' trip to Cuba "is not a ritual, it is a demonstration of congruence with and allegiance and fidelity to foreign policy principles and norms that have for many years prevailed in Mexico's foreign policy." [passage omitted]

Taiwan Prime Minister Arrives in Mexico

OW0606081894 Taipei CNA in English 0654 GMT 6 Jun 94

[By Sofia Wu]

[Text] Taipei, June 6 (CNA)—Premier Lien Chan arrived in Mexico from Guatemala early Monday [6 June] morning (Taipei time) for a private visit, according to a news release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lien is visiting Mexico at the invitation of his friend, Mario Vazquez, who owns a number of news organizations and businesses in the Central American country, the ministry said.

Vazquez, who visited Taiwan last year, is very friendly to Taiwan and has contributed a lot to promoting substantive relations between the Republic of China [ROC] and Mexico, the ministry noted. Lien is the highest-ranking ROC official to visit Mexico since the two countries severed diplomatic ties in 1971.

While there, the ministry said, Lien will meet with Mexican business leaders on Mexico's economic situation since it joined the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Lien may also exchange views with Mexican officials on possible investment and economic cooperation projects between the two countries and seek Mexico's support for Taiwan's bid to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, government sources said.

Taiwan-Mexican trade has increased steadily since 1989 when the semi-official China External Trade Development Council opened a representative office in Mexico. Two-way trade totaled about US $700 million in 1993, with Taiwan enjoying a surplus of US $300 million.

As a NAFTA member, Mexico provides easy access for foreign investors to the vast North American market. Many Taiwan companies have set up production facilities in Mexican cities bordering the United States in recent years.

The ROC opened a representative office in Mexico City on May 1 to further promote bilateral exchanges. In Taipei, Mexico has issued multiple entry visas for Taiwan visitors since June 1991.

Lien is being accompanied by his wife and several Foreign Ministry officials, including Vice Foreign Minister Fang Chin-yen, on his Mexican tour.

Lien will leave Mexico Tuesday (Taipei time) for New York for a family reunion with his two children who are studying there. The premier is scheduled to return to Taipei Saturday.

Lien, heading a 21-member entourage, flew to El Salvador in late May to attend the inauguration of new Salvadoran president, Armando Calderon Sol. He then made a four-day official visit to Guatemala. Most members of Lien's entourage will not accompany Lien to Mexico and the United States.

This is Lien's second overseas trip this year, following a visit to Honduras and Belize in January.

Peace Commissioner: Process at 'Crucial Stage'

PA0406123294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 17

[Statement by Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, in his Mexico City office on 1 June]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have reached a crucial stage in the peace process in Chiapas. The fact that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] has concluded consultations for an honorable peace in Chiapas—consultations that resulted from the talks in San Cristobal de las Casas—is an indication of the EZLN's sense of responsibility. As everyone knows, the EZLN's CCRI- CG [Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Movement - General Command] has declared itself in permanent session to discuss the opinions received and to make a response, which would be made known to the public.

Therefore, we are at a crucial stage of the peace reconstruction process. The communities that were consulted were precisely those that decided to go to war. The fact that these communities have been consulted on the possibility of peace is in itself a political fact of the utmost importance. Of course, the conclusion of the consultation does not mean that a new step in favor of peace has been taken. Three strategic possibilities are presented as an outcome of the Chiapas conflict.

The first one is that decisions by the sides, accidents, or social events foreign to the sides lead to an act of belligerence in the future. The second one is that the current situation, which has prevented war, might continue by the will of the sides as a result of new political decisions and the continuation of the truce, that is, by mediation and communication.

The third possibility is that, as a result of the EZLN's current decision to hold consultations and the Mexican Government's own decisions, a new step can be taken to construct peace, which can increase security for the Chiapas community, the Mexican Army, the EZLN, and the country in general.

The point we have reached is the result of a special effort for peace on the part of the government, the Mexican Army, the State of Chiapas, the Mexican Congress, the Chiapas Congress, the Higher Court of Justice of Chiapas, the Mexican society, and the EZLN, as well as mediation and the communities. All of these political forces have unanimously supported peace. This is not the time to wait with our arms crossed. If the required steps are not taken before the August elections, it will be very difficult to make any headway in the future.

To consolidate progress in the peace process, today, I presented to the president of the Republic a confidential report on the status of the conflict and the political actions that the government can take, indicating the solution that I regard as the most appropriate considering the causes of the uprising and the solution that can protect the interests of society and the Mexican State. In this report, I requested the president of the Republic's support for decisions that might represent a new response of harmony to the EZLN's probable answer.

In addition, today, I sent to the EZLN General Command a confidential communique mentioning the points that would increase the tranquility of society and the Mexican Army, reassure the EZLN itself, and represent a significant contribution for the peace process.

Society is not asking to have the sides confront one another in a dilemma of peace or war. Instead, society demands a clear, unambiguous demonstration, such as the demonstrations at the beginning of the year, which made it possible to stop the war.

On the one hand, society asks for a public expression—with nonbelligerent actions—of the EZLN's commitment for a political solution. On the other, society asks for a full definition—with nonbelligerent actions—on the part of the Mexican Government.

No one should grow impatient in this decisive hour. For this reason, I hereby appeal to all political, social, and civil forces, economic sectors, national leaders, and the local and international media, to join their voices in support of the peace process.

The possibility of a new step forward in the peace process is, not only in the hands of the EZLN, but in the hands of the government and civil society. This is the time for those truly concerned for peace to express themselves.

Baja California Authorities Investigate Entry of Weapons

PA0506195294 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Baja California Attorney General's Office is investigating the possible entry of a large shipment of weapons through the state's border in view of the recent confiscation of 50 AK-47 rifles in Mexicali. This was disclosed by Baja California Governor Ernesto Ruffo Appel in Mexicali.

[Begin Ruffo recording] Well, everyone knows that we have seized some weapons here. I think we recently seized approximately 50 of them. They were apparently part of a larger shipment. Therefore, we are investigating. [end recording]

According to police, the AK-47 rifles, which were found in a clandestine workshop in Mexicali, were modified for automatic fire. Ruffo Appel said various police forces and the Army are conducting special operations in the state to detect the entry of weapons.

Secretariat Denies Arms Introduction

PA0306172194 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 3 Jun 94

["Bulletin" issued by the Secretariat of National Defense in Mexico City on 2 June—read by announcer]

[Text] Given the events in the Chiapas highlands at the beginning of the year, the Secretariat of National Defense intensified its investigation of the illegal shipment of weapons to our country. Among the evidence gathered, in late January we received indication of a possible shipment of 2,000 AK-47 rifles, which could be part of a larger shipment. In other words, this case is over four-months old.

Upon receiving this information, the Secretariat of National Defense established the hypothesis that these arms could be smuggled to any state with high incidence of drug trafficking, or other crime problems.

The Secretariat of National Defense alerted other Federal agencies, so they could take appropriate action to confirm the veracity of this report. The information was received at the official level, and it was handled in a confidential manner. Currently there is no evidence of an illegal shipment of weapons from abroad.

The Secretariat of Government and the Attorney General's Office also conducted an investigation into this case, with negative results. All information on gun running is investigated in great detail, and in several cases—like in this case—investigations turn out negative.

Congress Approves Amendment to Electoral Code

PA0406031994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 1 Jun 94 p 9

[Report by Oscar Camacho Guzman]

[Text] Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies approved an electoral "minireform" that had been agreed upon by the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], National

Action Party [PAN], and the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], thus changing the content of Article 77 of the Federal Code of Institutions and Electoral Procedures (Cofipe) regarding the employment of citizen advisers. The reform allows them to earn income derived from the free practice of their professions, bonuses, and author's and publications' royalties during the time they occupy this post.

The reform was approved during talks among the PRI, PAN, PRD, and the Government Secretariat after journalist Miguel Angel Granados Chapa asked the persons who participate in the appointment process to define the nature of citizen advisers and not to turn them into officials, but allow them to retain their function in society," according to an explanation he publicly gave last Saturday. [no beginning quotation mark as published]

The reform the Chamber of Deputies approved yesterday does not alter, however, the single paragraph of the Cofife's Article 77 to which only two paragraphs are attached to detail four exceptions allowing citizen advisers to earn some remuneration. A differentiation in the income of the citizen advisers is introduced this way, since only those who work or perform some function for the federal government, states, municipalities, or political parties or those who earn some remuneration from individuals involving dependence or subordination must abandon their jobs.

The citizen advisers' income that comes from the "free practice of their profession, bonuses, or authors' and publications' royalties" will have another legal status. This creates the opportunity for them to perform another remunerated activity within the conditions established by the "minireform" in tandem with their post in the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) General Council.

Two of the six IFE General Council civilian advisers maintain a labor relationship with an institution. This case applies to National Autonomous University of Mexico staff members Jose Woldenberg, professor of the Policital Sciences Faculty, and Ricardo Pozas, director of the Social Research Institute.

Granados Chapa, in turn, is the editor of a magazine; Ortiz Pinchetti [no first name as published] and Santiago Creel have their law offices; and Fernando Zertuche performs editorial work.

According to the explanations given to justify this initiative, the goal of this addition is to guarantee "a greater independence and impartiality" on the part of the citizen advisers.

The initiative was submitted almost at the end of the session, and in view of the great urgency to have it approved yesterday so that next Friday the citizen advisers can be sworn in legally, the PRI, PAN, and PRD blocs agreed to forgo the congressional ritual, and, based on Articles 59 and 60 of the internal regulations, waived the drafting of the respective report, the first and second readings of the report, the debate, and any future possibility of proposing changes.

With this agreement by the PRI, PAN, and PRD, this "minireform," which in effect constitutes the fourth electoral reform of this six-year period, did not take more than 10 minutes of the lawmakers' time and joined the list of initiatives approved at full speed by the PRI legislators, whom the PAN and most of the PRD deputies not only did not criticize but rather supported.

There were, however, seven abstentions among the PRD legislators. The Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party cast five votes against it, as opposed to the 269 in votes in favor, by the automatic PRI-PAN-PRD majority. The initiative approved yesterday also amends the Cofife's Article 77 and subparagraph B of paragraph 5 of Article 74 so that they read as follows:

Article 74, paragraphs five, subparagraph B: "From this list, the corresponding commission will draft an individual report containing the slate of citizen advisers and alternates. The Chamber of Deputies will elect the citizen advisers by a vote of two thirds of the deputies present. The proposals by the advisers will be voted on based on the procedure outlined by the Internal Governing Rules for the General Congress of the United States of Mexico on its chapter on voting."

Article 77: "During their mandate, the citizen advisers of the General Council may not perform any function or job for the Federation, states, municipalities, or political parties. Neither may they accept a remunerated post or employment that entails a dependence or subordination from individuals."

"The citizen advisers may earn income stemming from the free practice of their profession, bonuses, or authors' or publications royalties so long as the independence, impartiality, or equity that must govern the exercise of their function is not undermined. They may hold unpaid jobs in scientific, literary, or charity associations. "For any clarification regarding the interpretation of this article, the Federal Electoral Tribunal will be called."

New Members of IFE Council Sworn In

PA0506191794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] In a special session, the general council of the Federal Electoral Institute [IFE] was installed with its new membership, as established by recent political and electoral reforms. The six citizen advisers, who were proposed and approved by the political parties in Congress, were sworn in and will be able to vote from now on. In an initial speech, Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo, president of the IFE general council, analyzed the legal reforms and the agreements that have been reached. He listed 36 agreements reached since January so the elections will be honest. He said that in accordance with the law, the elections will be held on 21 August.

[Begin Carpizo recording] On behalf of the federal executive, I want to reiterate that the government's commitment to act impartially and legally is unalterable. It has not and will not be subject to anything other than the law. [end recording]

After a recess and in a special session, Samuel del Villar, representative of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], reported that members of his party found electoral material in a trash heap in Mexico City. He said they will file a report on this once the Electoral Prosecutor's Office is established.

[Begin del Villar recording] We will provide documents related to this to the Attorney General's Office. [end recording]

The IFE council approved that a commission formed by three of the six citizen advisers will investigate this issue.

Candidate Cardenas Receives Death Threat

PA0506150594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0302 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Jun (AFP)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, center-left presidential candidate, has received an anonymous death threat in Oaxaca, in southern Mexico, where he is on a campaign tour, the official NOTIMEX news agency reported on Saturday.

The anonymous threat against Cardenas stated: "We are ready to eradicate social blights. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas is one of them. Remember what happened to Colosio. Say good-bye to your candidate, this week he dies."

Colosio, presidential candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), was assassinated on 23 March and although the perpetrator was arrested, the motive has yet to be clarified.

The source indicated that the anonymous threat, which was received by the Oaxaca state committee of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD, center-left), was sent by an organization called Lady of Guadalupe Archdiocesan Sanctuary.

At an event in the community of Macuiltianguis, Oaxaca, Cardenas scoffed at the threat, indicating that "their bark is worse than their bite." He added, "when someone wants to do something, he does not announce it. There is nothing to worry about."

PGR To Reward Police Who Arrest Drug Traffickers

PA0406032694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 45

[Report by David Carrizales]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 1 Jun—Mario Ruiz Massieu, deputy Attorney General of the Republic, said police commanders or policemen who arrest drug traffickers will receive a reward, but admitted that his office "does not have the means or the capacity to compete with the corruption funds offered by the drug cartels."

Ruiz Massieu reiterated that Attorney General's Office (PGR) officials who do not work will be fired and that, in the event that their links to drug traffickers are proved, action will be taken against them. Ruiz Massieu told members of the Nuevo Leon Lawyers Association (CANL) that since Jorge Carpizo joined the PGR and later became Government Secretary, he has encouraged citizens to view the institution "with trust and not with terror."

He said that regardless of the established inertia and faults, there is confidence that the PGR can become the institution that all Mexicans want. Ruiz Massieu asked lawyers and citizens to criticize and point out faults and deficiencies so that all PGR officials and agents do their duty, if not by conviction, then at least out of fear of being exposed.

After meeting with CANL members, the federal official reiterated in an interview that the call made a few days ago to PGR delegates and deputies, as well as to Federal Judicial Police commanders, was not an ultimatum; "they were simply told that they must know who the most important drug traffickers are in the states where they work because their work is to investigate and they should know all these networks."

Therefore, he added, they should yield results, and these should begin to be seen in about four weeks. If by then no results are seen, he reiterated, "we will analyze whether or not this is due to incompetence or negligence, or because they are covering up and are accomplices; this is what I said and what I am repeating."

He added that officials who manage to arrest drug traffickers will receive a reward, but the PGR does not have the capacity or means to equal or surpass what the criminals may offer. He said the desire to earn a reward and the commitment to work and serve society as citizens and human beings must be combined.

Afterward, in a meeting with local business members of the Nuevo Leon Civic Council Institutions and Civilian Association, Ruiz Massieu received a request by Gerardo Gomez Valdez, legal director for the Monterrey National Chamber of Commerce, for the PGR to unfreeze 200 million new pesos seized from three currency exchange houses (Monterrey, Colon, and Mercado de Cambios) in this city, which were charged with laundering money. This freeze not only affected the business owners, but over 200 businessmen who had nothing to do with the legal procedure.

El Salvador

UN Offered Troops for Peacekeeping Force

PA0306210194 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has offered the United Nations part of its Army for a future peacekeeping force, President Armando Calderon Sol has said.

The Salvadoran president has said "El Salvador is unable to receive Haitian refugees," but he said "what he can offer the world is a professional, technical, and ethical armed force that can be ready for any UN mission if it needs brave men for a peacekeeping force."

He has said "the United Nations knows it has a very professional armed force in El Salvador," adding the Salvadoran Government has already expressed the Army's willingness to assist.

The government did not reveal the number of troops offered to the United Nations, but he said El Salvador has helicopter pilots with advanced training and other military specialists who can contribute to the international community.

He has reiterated the United Nations can make the request, "which would be considered with great appreciation, because the Salvadoran Army is a professional and very technical Army."

Moreover, Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina has rejected an eventual U.S. invasion of Haiti. "We reject invasions of any country," he has said.

Calderon Sol Swears In Cabinet Ministers

PA0306232094 Paris AFP in Spanish 2006 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Jun (AFP)—New Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol swore in on Wednesday the 12 ministers who consist of his cabinet and with whom he will govern for a five-year term.

The cabinet installment ceremony took place at the Government House in southern San Salvador, after Calderon Sol was sworn in as president during an official act held at the International Fair, in western San Salvador.

Highlighting the new government team is Foreign Minister Oscar Santamaria, who was presidency minister under the Alfredo Cristiani administration and who headed the government commission that negotiated the end of the civil war with the former guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

There is also General Humberto Corado, described as a "moderate and conciliatory" military officer, who was confirmed to his post as defense minister.

The official cabinet consists of the following:
Presidency Minister: Enrique Borgo
Interior and Public Security Minister: Roberto Angulo
Foreign Minister: Oscar Santamaria
Defense Minister: General Humberto Corado
Economy Minister: Enrique Cordova
Public Health Minister: Eduardo Interiano
Agriculture Minister: Carlos Mejia
Education Minister: Cecilia Gallardo
Public Works Minister: Jorge Sansivirini
Planning Minister: Ramon Gonzalez
Justice Minister: Ruben Mejia
Treasury Minister: Juan Cordova

The ministers are appointed for a one-year term, and the president will decide whether to keep them in their posts during the five-year administration.

Guatemala

URNG Issues Statement on Negotiations Process

PA0406025194 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Jun 94 p 27

[Text of statement by the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, General Command; place and date not given]

[Text] Given the biased and confidential versions that the Government of the Republic—from the president down to his official and unofficial spokespersons—has allowed to be disseminated on this last round of negotiations and on the progress of the process in general, we charge before the national and international public the following:

1. That the Government of the Republic, through its peace delegation—within the framework of a strong and deceptive publicity campaign—maintained, during the round of conversations and afterward, a deceitful, incoherent, and harmful position.

It is deceitful because it has attempted to label as humanitarian its position, which ignores substantial aspects of the uprooting of communities and the magnitude and social trauma, reducing it to a ridiculous space in this worst and ambiguous government policy that is being implemented.

It is incoherent because it rejects society's clamor and demands of justice on such an important issue. This has been expressed by the Assembly of Civil Society, as well as by the URNG at the negotiating table.

It is harmful because it lays down as a first condition a cease-fire in the areas of resettlement; this is totally unwarranted. Besides, they know before hand that this is rejected because: a) It does not deal with the agreement's issue nor its validity; b) the areas of specific resettlement are not areas of combat, and when and where these are determined is based on the presence and actions of the military detachments; and c) the faithful fulfillment of the Overall Agreement on Human Rights and its immediate verification take into consideration and guarantee the situation of the noncombatant civilian population.

2. To try, as the government has proposed, to avoid having the Commission on the Violation of Human Rights begin its work until the issue of the displaced persons has been concluded is outlandish, and it violates the official agreements signed and established in the negotiating process. This vital and important issue was the object of a specific agreement, expressed in a special declaration on 29 March when the Overall Agreement on Human Rights was signed. This special declaration established, with no room for doubt and in an expressed manner, that during the month of May a specific meeting should be held to deal with this issue. Since there is no excuse or pretext to evade this commitment, it was agreed that the meeting would be held in Oslo on 11 June without any preconditions and that it would not deal with any others issues.

3. Yesterday marked two months since a historic event: the official signing of the Overall Agreement on Human Rights. Sixty days have gone by, and the government continues to ignore and not fulfill the majority of the points agreed upon. At this time, we strongly demand that at least the national campaign—in which the government and other institutions had made a commitment to report and explain the agreements—be carried out immediately and in all its magnitude.

The explanations or justification given by the national government of the Republic and internationally, alleging lack of funds, fall short in both validity and credibility while they only denote a serious want of political willingness to comply.

In this framework and before the national and international community, we demand that Commander Everardo be handed over alive. We reject the defense minister's explanations and insinuations.

4. On 14 May, as part of a vast military plan, the Guatemalan Army initiated a general offensive of a surprising nature. The goal was to put the URNG at a disadvantageous position for discussing the displaced persons' issue on 21 May.

The second phase of that national offensive was initiated today in the Ixcan area. Here is where the six elite battalions, including two paratrooper battalions, were concentrated. They have been deployed to operate against the communities of resistant people and against the camps of displaced persons who have returned.

We reiterate our charges concerning the consequences and implications this will have in the coming weeks at a national and international level. The URNG reaffirms its willingness to participate in the negotiating process with the best constructive attitude, but we are not willing to accept any distortion or coercing aimed at weakening or misrepresenting the contents of the substantive issues and their development.

UNRG General Command

[signed] Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Pablo Monsanto, Commander Gaspar Ilom, Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the PTG's [Guatemalan Labor Party], CC [?Central Committee].

GAM Issues Communique Marking 10th Anniversary

PA0606015294 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1980 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Communique by the Mutual Support Group, GAM, marking the 10th anniversary of its founding, on 3 June; place not given; from the "Telepress" newscast—read by GAM President Nineth Montenegro]

[Text] The GAM wishes to state that we have spent 10 years defending life and liberty. That is why we deem it important to reiterate our profound commitment to assist in building in solidarity a multiparty, humanitarian, and developed Guatemala. This objective, however, will not be possible if we do not decentralize wealth and political power and simultaneously reconvert military doctrines at the domestic level. These are the basic principles on which we can build a new Guatemala and create conditions to achieve a new way for Guatemalans.

At the international level, it requires the awareness that Guatemala must obtain the necessary unconditional support to create a true peace process, respecting our right to find a possible and realistic model for the country. We cannot survive on good intentions alone. Only facts serve as the guidelines to consolidate the present and view the future. By the same token, the relatives of missing persons today demand the willingness to engage in dialogue and peace negotiations. We must not create sterile expectations that do not materialize and heighten the people's frustration, leading only to acceptance and silence.

We recognize, however, that 10 years later new spaces have been opened which can permit civilian society to play a predominant role. This demands that we cast aside traditional and backward positions that attempt to throw the country backwards at every level. Also, the civilian society must assume its responsibility with seriousness and obviate outmoded ideas, which would have us believe that order and security imply authoritarianism and the return of those who years ago harmed us a lot. It is also important to assess 10 years of struggle in which our organization should have readapted to the moment, without losing sight of its principles.

Of course, the GAM views with good eyes the rapprochement with diverse sectors of civil society, which are not necessarily included within the context of the popular and labor movement. Currently there is a renewed form of thinking, which makes us believe that a common front of all sectors, including political parties, may exist in the immediate future to allow us to find solutions of consensus. We believe there is a moral force that obliges us to discuss significant topics. That does not imply that we fail to recognize that new forms of terrorism persist, seeking to destroy our small achievements, that perhaps we will have to face a new escalation of violence that will possibly claim many lives and intimidate others. We are aware of the historic moment we are living in Guatemala, and we assume it with responsibility.

De Leon Returns From Salvadoran Inauguration

PA0406132294 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 4

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio returned to Guatemala last night after attending the inauguration of new Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol.

De Leon's arrival, initially scheduled to be at 17:30 local time, was delayed for two hours, causing the suspension of a pre-announced news conference.

Presidency spokesman Felix Loarca indicated the president's delay was due to a last-minute meeting he had before leaving El Salvador. Nothing bad happened, he was delayed because of the meeting and that is why we canceled the news conference, Loarca stressed.

According to Loarca, during de Leon's visit to El Salvador, the Central American presidents held meetings in which they discussed topics related to the upcoming Ibero-American Summit to be held in Cartagena, Colombia.

We have confirmed that President de Leon will attend the Ibero-American Summit. At the summit, the initiative for the Alliance for Sustained Development will be discussed. The Central American presidents are expected to present this initiative jointly, he added.

Meanwhile, Loarca noted that de Leon Carpio will host today a dinner in honor of Taiwan's Prime Minister Lien Chan. Chan has been visiting the country since yesterday afternoon.

Honduras

Honduran-Flagged Vessels Said Taking Fuel to Haiti

PA0306195094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1703 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Honduran-flagged ships were found carrying fuel to Haiti, thus violating the embargo the UN Security Council imposed on that country, authorities admitted today. Carlos Sosa Coello, chairman of the Chairman of the National Drug Interdiction Committee, told NOTIMEX "there are Honduran ships that illegally smuggle Chinese citizens into the United States and others transport fuel to Haiti."

Sosa Coello charged that ships registered in Honduras were also detected in international waters carrying drugs. The Honduran National Congress is getting ready to discuss the existing Merchant Marine Law, through which a government leases its flag to foreign businessman who request it. The military controls the merchant marine, and the civilian government receives no income from the registering of foreign ships.

The military does not provide or report on the amounts of money they earn for leasing the national flag, but sources at the Congress said the business could yield close to $40 million a year. "We have an open registry of merchant vessels in Honduras, from which every one profits except the treasury," Sosa Coello indicated.

Nelman Sabillon, secretary of the Maritime Commission of the Foreign Ministry, said that since 1993 ships flying the Honduran flag have violated the then "partial" agreement to put a blockade on Haiti.

The U.S. Coast Guard Service informed the Honduran Government that in 1993 it intercepted Honduran-flag vessels carrying fuel to Haiti. Bilateral agreements allow the United States to intercept and come aboard Honduran vessels and aircraft in international waters within the efforts the two countries are making to fight drug trafficking. Sabillon also disclosed that the previous month Japanese authorities filed a complaint against the Honduran-flag vessel Montana for carrying 60 Chinese nationals who were trying to enter the United States. Honduras has to deal with complaints from the United States, Japan, Canada, and France that Honduran-flag vessels are fishing illegally in their territorial waters to the detriment of their fishing resources, the Foreign Ministry official indicated.

UN Charges Ships Violating Embargo

PA0406184294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1702 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—The United Nations informed Honduras that ships bearing the Honduran flag are violating the embargo against Haiti, an official Honduran Government source confirmed today, Saturday.

The Honduran Foreign Ministry received a note from this international organization regarding the presence of at least five Honduran-flagged ships off the Haitian coasts that are supplying that country with fuel and other materials.

Merchant Marine Superintendent Reynaldo Flores said the ships were identified as "Erma," "Sea Wind II," "Aida Luz," "Lady Sandra III," and "Rooster."

Flores said "we cannot impede" the presence of ships registered under the Honduran flag because they are flagged for legal activities, and "we have no way of knowing if they commit illegal activities."

One of the ships, the "Rooster," had previously been detained for drug trafficking, the Honduran Merchant Marine Office confirmed.

Deputy Carlos Sosa Coello of the Innovation and Unity Party warned that the United Nations could penalize Honduras for this event.

Reina Interviewed on 100 Days in Office

PA0506030894 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Jun 94

[By German Reyes]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina inherited from Rafael Callejas' government an economic crisis, which for a few days literally made him feel as if he "were sitting on a keg of gunpowder," he told ACAN-EFE. "We were sitting on a keg of gunpowder for the first few days, because the situation we inherited was very delicate, but he noted that (the "gunpowder") is being rendered inactive."

Reina, a 68-year-old leader who took power on 27 January, inherited a country with a foreign debt of some $3.7 billion, a fiscal deficit exceeding 11 percent, and a commercial balance that was unfavorable by some $400 million.

On completing his first 100 days of government on 10 May, Reina stated in a message to the nation that "Honduras' current problems stem principally from the ethical and administrative blunders of the former government." He also stated that "dishonesty in the conduct of state workers was one of the most serious flaws of the former government" and that "it is not fair, in light of this, to leave unpunished those who were favored by the most brazen methods of corruption ever recorded in Honduras' recent history."

Callejas rejected these remarks and said that, if Reina has proof of corruption in the former government, he should present it before the courts.

The president has pledged to send to prison the corrupt ones and to adopt drastic measures—which will have an effect on the Honduran people—to remedy the damage caused and to initiate the economic recovery demanded by the nation. "The country does not have resources, but we are making immense efforts and hope to push ahead," the president stated in an interview granted to ACAN-EFE in Tegucigalpa.

In his opinion, when a country has a government that is "absolutely legitimate, democratic, and of moral authority amd handles funds in an open and pure manner, there is confidence, sympathy, and national and international sovereignty."

As an example of that confidence and international solidarity, the president cited the visit to Honduras last 24 May by U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who met with the Central American presidents to analyze the agenda of the Summit of the Americas. The summit was called by President Bill Clinton and is scheduled to be held in Miami in December.

Reina admitted that Honduras' situation is difficult, but said it is better than that of other countries, which are "beset not only by economic problems, but also by violence, instability, and lack of political solutions."

Reina's government was politically strengthened by the visit of Gore, who expressed to the president his solidarity with "the government of moral revolution" that he is directing to overcome the economic crisis of this Central American nation, which returned to democracy in 1982, after virtually two decades of military regimes.

In his four months of government, Reina has implemented some monetary measures, which have been supported by the private sector, to alleviate the crisis. He has not, however, been able to control the spiraling inflation, which, between January and May, registered 12.7 percent, according to Central Bank figures. The prices of products have increased, hitting hard the low income sectors.

The president has asked Hondurans to have "patience" and not to pressure him, because he is convinced that the "vast national convergence" process, which he has asked all social sectors to join, will bring the country out of its most serious problems.

Domestically, Reina has also secured political achievements, such as the elimination of the mandatory military service and its replacement with a "voluntary, educational, humanitarian, social, and democratic" plan approved by the National Congress. The Armed Forces were not in agreement with it, but in the end accepted it out of "discipline."

The president took over a government plagued by a difficult economic situation, worsened by the electricity crisis faced by the country since last January, resulting in drastic power cuts for periods up to six hours. One fourth of the country's production is affected by the lack of electricity. The crisis has become more acute because of a shortage of 120 megawatts, although the government is making efforts to overcome the situation that is keeping Honduras in semi-darkness.

Nicaragua

Leal Denies U.S. Pressure From Officials' Visit

PA0406025094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0043 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Managua, 3 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal today ruled out the possibility that the visit by two U.S. legislators is aimed at pressuring the Nicaraguan Government into returning the properties confiscated from U.S. citizens during the last decade. "We do not regard this visit as a form of pressure. We like people to come and see what happens in Nicaragua," Leal said in reference to the five-day visit of U.S. Representatives Robert Torricelli and Cass Ballenger.

According to a Foreign Ministry note, Torricelli and Ballenger arrived in Nicaragua "to learn about progress on property ownership, human rights, security of the people, and the economic and political situation in general."

Torricelli, the Democratic representative for New Jersey, said upon arriving in Managua the return to U.S. citizens of properties confiscated in the last decade "is a necessary factor for the continuance of aid for Nicaragua."

The U.S. Congress approved an amendment on 29 April imposing restrictions on U.S. financial aid for countries where properties of U.S. citizens have been confiscated, if the necessary steps for the resolution of this situation are not taken within a 90-day deadline.

Leal said these restrictions do not apply to Nicaragua, because, he said, the amendment applies only to countries that lack mechanisms to settle the claims of U.S. citizens. According to Leal, Nicaragua has started to return or make compensation for the real estate confiscated from both Nicaraguans and foreigners since 1991.

According to the U.S. Embassy in Managua, 600 U.S. citizens demand the return of more than 1,000 properties. The government of President Violeta Chamorro argues, however, that most of these individuals had adopted Nicaraguan citizenship prior to the time their properties were seized.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has reported that 125 U.S. citizens are demanding the return of 412 properties and that the difference between these figures and those provided by the U.S. Embassy consists of Nicaraguans who had assumed U.S. citizenship.

Lacayo: Government Compensating Property Owners

PA0506004294 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "This Morning" newscast]

[Text] Nicaraguan Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said upon returning from Costa Rica yesterday that U.S., Spanish, and German citizens have received over $600 million in bonds as compensation for their properties. The ranking government official also confirmed that all Nicaraguans favor an intensification of democracy and reject violence.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] To date we have issued bonds worth over 600 million cordobas [figure as heard] as compensation without regard for the nationality of the beneficiaries. The only problem with foreign citizens is that they are subject to special procedures at the Foreign Ministry aimed at maintaining good relations with their governments. On this occasion we are dealing with the Spanish, German, and U.S. Governments, and they have all received equal treatment. Nevertheless, in accordance with the law, the Foreign Ministry is giving priority to U.S. citizens.

[Unidentified reporter] Returning once again to the conference you held in Costa Rica, did you agree on anything with Dr. Sergio Ramirez?

[Lacayo] I agreed on many issues with Dr. Ramirez and Mr. Aleman because we are all in favor of an intensification of the democratic system. We fully agreed on that. We all favored a special market economy that will foster progress and well-being for the Nicaraguan people, especially the poorest sectors. We all agreed that violence can never again be used as a means of achieving a change of government in this country. We all agreed on the importance of strengthening the conviction that a democratic system is the best means of changing the government.

We also agreed that the management of the economy, community projects, and production resources are priorities, which is exactly what the government's economic policy is doing. We agreed on so many issues that the students wanted to know where our disagreements lay. [end recording]

Further on Lacayo Remarks

PA0506135394 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[By Mario Lourdes Osorio from the "National Newscast"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo described the visit of U.S. Congressmen to Nicaragua as positive. He said they will have the opportunity to verify the government's challenge.

[Begin Lacayo recording] They will be able to see, that unlike last year, the National Assembly is working normally with all its deputies; there is a Comptroller General who was democratically appointed; there is also a draft military bill agreed upon by the government and the Army, which is in fact already in the hands of the National Assembly; there is a rich and fruitful discussion process on possible constitutional reforms; and we are moving ahead to solve what we call the property conflict—property that is both owned by U.S. as well as Nicaraguan citizens. We are also expediting the process to resolve the property issue through the issuance and legalization of deeds to land beneficiaries. We have already handed out land deeds covering more that 160,000 manzanas since September 1992 when we began the program. We will end this year with more than 300,000 total manzanas accumulated. There is also a compensation process, through the issuance of bonds, for those whose properties were unfairly confiscated in the last decade. With the privatization of TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute], these bonds will have substantial backing and bond holders can have confidence in them and accept them easily, thus allowing land to be legalized for beneficiaries. [end recording]

Regarding property legalization for U.S. citizens and the effects of the Torricelli law, Lacayo said:

[Begin Lacayo recording] What counts is the person's nationality at the time of the confiscation. There may be Nicaraguans who had acquired U.S. citizenship and were affected afterward; for us and according to international law, they are U.S. citizens, whatever their name might be. However, if a person's property was confiscated by the Sandinist government while they were Nicaraguan citizens and five, six, or eight years later they became U.S. citizens, we will simply treat them as Nicaraguan citizens. [end recording]

Sandinists: Torricelli Urging Political Changes

PA0506033194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1649 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Text] Managua, 4 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Sandinist leader Victor Tirado said today that the U.S. congressmen who have been in Managua since Thursday "have come to pressure the Nicaraguan Government into altering the country's political and economic course."

"I have no doubt that Robert (Torricelli, one of the mission members) came to press for political asylum in Nicaragua for some of the Haitians," added Tirado, one of the 15 members of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Torricelli, a Democrat from New Jersey, and Cass Ballenger, a Republican from North Carolina, are on a five-day visit to Nicaragua to examine the problem of U.S. citizens whose properties were seized by the Sandinist regime.

The U.S. "pressures" Tirado spoke about were denied on Friday by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, who said: "We like people to visit the country so they can see what is going on in Nicaragua."

The problem faced by North Americans, who are demanding that Violeta Chamorro's administration return the properties confiscated by the Sandinists, is the leading problem between the United States and Nicaragua. A failure to resolve this conflict may lead to the blocking of an estimated $60 million in U.S. economic aid to Nicaragua this year.

"Torricelli did not come to Nicaragua because it occurred to him to defend the North Americans, but to exert pressure in various ways for an alteration of the country's political and economic course, Tirado said on a "Radio Sandino" talk show.

The Sandinist leader attributed this new round of U.S. pressures to the traditional custom of Nicaraguan politicians who "believe in resolving every problem in Washington." "We must gradually change this attitude," Tirado said, after pointing out the need to engage the U.S. officials in discussions involving trade relations and investments and to review treaties with them and contemplate a new relationship between Managua and Washington.

According to Tirado, the presence of the U.S. legislative mission in Managua should be taken advantage of to "discuss trade relations (with Torricelli) instead of allowing ourselves to be strung along by his views or his pressure." According to "commander" Tirado, considering the correlation of forces in today's world, gone are the days when the United States could view Central America as its "backyard." "If these countries (Central America) allow themselves to be called a backyard, it means it is an opinion they share," added the leader, who also pointed out that the countries in this region should function as a bloc to preclude pressures from the United States.

Torricelli and Ballenger met last night with President Violeta Chamorro, but after the meeting they refused to talk to reporters. The U.S. congressmen also met with Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and this weekend will pursue an agenda of meetings with representatives from various sectors.

The Association of Nicaraguan-American Owners of Confiscated Property [Asociacion de Confiscados Americanos de Nicaragua], formed by 650 Nicaraguan-Americans, is demanding the return of 1,400 properties valued at approximately $600 million. Roberto Vassalli, president of the association, told reporters that in four years the Chamorro administration has only resolved 20 claims "to the full satisfaction" of the organization's members.

On 29 April the "Helms-Gonzalez" amendment went into effect in the United States; this amendment establishes a 30 July deadline before which all countries must return confiscated properties to U.S. citizens.

Vassalli said that the association also supports thousands of Nicaraguans who are demanding the return of properties seized bv the Sandinists during the past decade.

Chamorro on El Salvador Visit, Haitian Refugees

PA0506000694 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by Vilma Estrada; from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro, upon returning from El Salvador, reported that high-ranking U.S. Government officials cite Nicaragua as an example of democratic transition in the Central American region. She flew to San Salvador to attend the inauguration of President Armando Calderon Sol. President Violeta Chamorro said she met with Strobe Talbott, U.S. under secretary of state, and Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. The U.S.

officials requested her support for the U.S. initiatives at the United Nations and OAS directed at restoring democracy in Haiti, because Nicaragua is an example of democracy. This opinion is shared by the other officials with whom she met during her visit.

[Begin Chamorro recording] Everyone looks positively at Nicaragua and its people. I held interviews with representatives of the United States, China, Spain, and many other countries. All of them said: Dona Violeta, we congratulate you for your good administration. I have heard many expressions of support and received many ovations, which I sincerely believe are for the Nicaraguan people. [end recording]

When asked about the U.S. request for support in receiving Haitian refugees, she said that her colleagues in the region are studying the situation and will respond during the December Summit of the Americas in Miami.

[Begin Chamorro recording] I believe that working together or alone to find well-being for Haiti is worthwhile. I remember perfectly well when members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front came and asked me: What can we do, Dona Violeta, to start talks in El Salvador and find peace there? I told them that the best way was to try, and now they have peace. That is what they told me. [end recording]

Sandinist Assembly Calls for FSLN Unity

PA0206200594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 May 94 pp 1,10

[Report by Jorge Katin]

[Text] Yesterday, the Sandinist Assembly made an fervent call to the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] grass roots to "unite around revolutionary objectives within the framework of decisions taken by the [FSLN National] Congress to set an example of flexibility by rejecting malicious traps, intolerance, and to strengthen camaraderie as well as constructive criticism."

The Sandinist Assembly, recently elected during the party's congress, met yesterday for the first time and proceeded to discuss the results of the elections, to select members of the Ethics and Judicial Commission, to elect a permanent Electoral Commission, to appoint three secretaries to the National Directorate, and to establish five work commissions.

Likewise, the assembly discussed issues such as a public debate on the results of the Sandinist congress and the thorny controversy of the media's support to Sandinism, especially the case of BARRICADA.

The new members of the Judicial and Ethics Commission include Miguel Angel Casco, Orlando Tardencilla, Onofre Guevara, Jose Pasos, Gladis Gomez, Yadira Centeno, Jorge Samper, Bruno Gallardo, Gloria Hernandez, Erwin Izaba.

The Electoral Commission includes Julian Corrales (president), Jeannete Chavez, Zadrach Zeledon, Ruth Herrera, and Jose Luis Villavicencio as principal members, and Edwin Castro as well as Josefina Ramos as alternates.

As has already been reported by BARRICADA, Monica Baltodano, Lumberto Campbell, and Victor Hugo Tinoco were elected secretaries of organization and education, communications, and international relations respectively.

Likewise, the Sandinist Assembly approved the creation of other commissions such as an agriculture commission, a youth commission, a women's commission, an Atlantic coast commission, and an economic-social commission.

Upon concluding the event, FSLN Deputy Secretary General Tomas Borge said that with respect to the media issue, it had been decided to "assess the situation" within the National Directorate, and to present a proposal afterwards before the Sandinist Assembly.

With respect to the debate to take place after the congress, it was confirmed the debate would be "free, open, and within the framework of the organizations members of the FSLN."

The absence of National Directorate member Henry Ruiz was quite obvious. Ruiz has abstained from participating in any of the meetings of the newly elected national directorate.

Calls for Penalties and More Media Control

The issue of the public debate over the congress results, and the role of the media was included as part of the agenda under "other issues." Discussions began when Modesto Mungia, an assembly member and Managua District Three leader, stated that the media could be useful as instruments to continue "examining" the problem of divisions within the FSLN.

On the other hand, Felix Contreras pointed out that not only is the legitimacy of the congress under attack, but that "groups are organized to further split the FSLN." As an example, he pointed to a recent call to all Sandinists professionals to participate in an assembly scheduled to take place next Tuesday at the UCA [Central American University].

William Grisgbi urged the National Directorate to "state its position on the scope of action of journalists, and responsibilities as assemblymen." Grisbi was referring to the controversy involving BARRICADA Director Carlos Fernando Chamorro and Danilo Aguirre, EL NUEVO DIARIO deputy director.

Nelson Artola, a San Ramon municipal leader asked "Who owns BARRICADA?" and immediately urged the FSLN to appropriate the media.

"We must penalize those comrades who are manipulating the results of the Congress, and we should do it with a steady hand and voice," Elias Chavez suggested.

In the meantime, National Directorate member Luis Carrion pointed out that "Neither the Assembly or the National Directorate should become media directors." In his opinion, overseeing mechanisms such as a directors council similar to the one operating at BARRICADA must be encouraged.

Nevertheless, Carlos Fonseca Teran insisted that "the problem lies in the clear intent to tarnish the congress' results."

In this respect, the harshest criticisms were directed at Sandinist Assembly member Danilo Aguirre, who is also EL NUEVO DIARIO deputy director.

Monica Baltodano, also a National Directorate member, urged all to "grab the bull by its horns," and that all those whom—it would seem—are attempting to "give a free rein to their ideas" should be called in and urged to speak clearly.

The controversy seemed to lose steam when BARRICADA Editor Carlos Fernando Chamorro addressed the assembly and indicated that this newspaper had been one of the few to cover the debates prior to, as well as following the congress. He also contended that the debate had been treated as taboo by the other media associated with Sandinism.

"Let's put the subject of the other media that did not cover the debate on the carpet," Chamorro pointed out.

Nevertheless, former BARRICADA sports director Emmett Lang restarted the controversy when he asked "what was the problem with suggesting Carlos Fernando's departure if he has already occupied the position for the past 14 years." Lang immediately added that "I am aware that because of this suggestion I will be attacked in tomorrow's edition of BARRICADA."

Gurdian Considers Presidential Candidacy

94P20835A

[Editorial Report] Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish of 10 May 1994 on page 3A reports that Higher Council of Private Enterprise (Cosep) President Ramiro Gurdian would be "willing" to be the National Conservative Party's candidate for president of Nicaragua in 1996. In his appearance on Channel 2's "Buenos Dias" program, Gurdian criticized the executive branch for being slow to resolve the property issue. In contrast, he cited examples of cases being resolved quickly under U.S. pressure. Gurdian related the accusations he had heard from peasants that military personnel are carrying out attacks in the north. With regard to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), he explained that Cosep is interested in a dialogue with the FSLN "in order to seek concrete solutions for Nicaragua," but that this should "in no way be interpreted as seeking an alliance with Sandinism."

Agriculture Ministry Releases Cultivation Figures

94P20835B

[Editorial Report] Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish on 12 May 1994 on page 7B reports that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock [MAG] is projecting a 4.3 percent increase in production for 1994-95 compared to the previous cycle. Approximately 660,000 manzanas will be planted in basic grains, including rice, corn, beans, sorghum, and soybeans, while 226,000 manzanas will be planted in products for export. Coffee will remain at the same level as last year—105,000 manzanas. Although the price of cotton has risen from $58 to $82 per quintal, only 5,000 manzanas of cotton will be planted, yielding 32 quintals per manzana. The article explains that production results will depend on timely government financing, estimated at $260 million from international financial organizations; respect for private property; and international market prices for exports.

Panama

Government Reviewing Haitian Asylum Request

PA0406172894 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Jun 94 p 3

[Article by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Excerpt] The government is studying a U.S. request to permit the arrival of Haitian refugees into national territory, even though no official position has been adopted on this issue, according to President Guillermo Endara.

Endara said that, traditionally, Panama has received refugees of various nationalities and that it is even common to see people jump into Panama Canal waters to ask for asylum.

The president said there is no official position yet, but the request made by the U.S. Government will be properly considered. [passage omitted]

Endara Would Not Back, Condemn Haiti Invasion

PA0506173194 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Jun 94 p 3

[By Jose Quintero]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany said that if the United States decides to invade Haiti to remove General Raoul Cedras and his men from power, he will not support it, but if it takes place he would not condemn it either.

Questioned by numerous journalists at the Yellow Room of the Presidential Palace after signing the Chapultepec

Declaration, Endara said he believes the invasion of Panama in December 1989 did not take place because of a right or a duty.

"We did not ask for the invasion... it took place... historic situations, which will be up to analysts to study."

According to the Panamanian president, between Haiti and Panama, there are distant but similar conditions, which he discussed with U.S. Vice President Al Gore during a recent dinner in Tegucigalpa.

He noted that on that occasion Gore said Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide won his country's elections with 70 percent of the votes, a similar percentage with which he (Endara) won the 1989 elections from his opponent, Carlos Duque from the National Liberation Coalition.

"I am not calling for an invasion of Haiti, but I do not exclude it either," the president said. When asked again if he would support an invasion, he said no, but that if the United States invades the island, he will not condemn it.

Endara Bids Farewell to U.S. 193d Infantry Brigade

PA0306225894 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1507 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Speech by President Guillermo Endara at ceremony bidding farewell to the U.S. 193d Infantry Brigade (Light) at Fort Clayton; broadcast in progress—live relay, with passage-by-passage translation into English]

[Text] ...these obligations also included the operations of the military bases in the canal area. My government has strived to comply to the letter with the 1977 treaties; this is why the creation of the Interoceanic Region Authority reflects our concern to design and establish an efficient system leading to the best use of the reverted and soon to be reverted areas.

Moreover, we have begun to adopt the necessary steps to ensure that the administration of the canal, of which we will formally and completely assume control by the end of the century, will continue to operate with the same degree of reliability that it has had during its entire existence.

Today's ceremony is nothing more than an irrefutable and palpable demonstration of the United States' willingness to also fully comply with the commitments acquired under the canal treaties.

We have gathered here to witness a very important and historic event. After 32 years in Panamanian territory, the 193d Infantry Brigade will be leaving our homeland. It is the last combat infantry unit that will be leaving Panama. Memories of missions accomplished and friendships cultivated will remain.

With the permission of the translator, I will briefly refer to one of the missions accomplished by one of the battalions of the brigade. In three days, on 6 June, we will be marking the 50th anniversary of the allied invasion of Normandy, which marked the beginning of the end of Nazi tyranny in Europe. This brigade's Paratroopers Battalion had the great honor—and we have the great honor of being here with it today—of participating as one of the first teams that entered territory occupied by the Nazis before the invasion per se. With great pride of being here with heroes to whom we owe freedom the world over, I give you a special salute on this day when you are leaving our homeland.

There are new horizons in the future for those who will be leaving and for those of us who will remain. I am certain members of this brigade and members of the Armed Forces who will follow them through 1999 will find new challenges and new paths to serve their country.

This is why our words of farewell contain a goodbye full of the best wishes for the men of arms who are leaving today. The citizens of this country, who will now gradually assume possession of high-value property, have a very serious challenge ahead. Our main goal is to ensure the entire canal area will become a center that will attract activities that will produce benefits for the rest of the country. In this manner, the wealth generated by this area will be spread throughout the Republic, especially to the benefit of the poorest and most needy segments of the population.

I am pleased my government has established the bases to ensure the materialization of this distribution of justice in our country. Future generations of Panamanians will enjoy the benefits of so many meritorious plans we are implementing. They must recall that all of this is possible thanks to a clear and friendly policy of full compliance with the 1977 treaties between our two countries. Today's ceremony is evidence of this policy.

To those who leave Panamanian soil today, I say: Goodbye, may God be with you. I hope you always remember with warmth the experience in our homeland. [applause]

Endara, Perez Balladares on Departure

PA0406042894 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by Ciro Ortega; from the "RPC Television News" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The 193d Infantry Brigade has completed 32 years of defense operations in Panama. It began its redeployment today from Panama, where the U.S. Army Southern Command is headquartered. The ceremony took place at Fort Clayton. The ceremony highlighted the brigade's decisive military action in Europe during World War II. The 193d had also participated in 1989's

Operation Just Cause, which ended with the capture of the Central Headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces. [passage omitted]

President Guillermo Endara Galimany outlined the challenge that lies ahead, saying the task is to transform the Panama Canal area into a magnet that attracts activities that can be beneficial to the entire country. He told the press this is a very significant event, but the historic encounter of 31 December 1999 is yet to come.

[Endara] "The events of 31 December will be even more significant; it will be both sad and happy, because the last U.S. soldier will be leaving."

President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares was clear in saying the departure of the 193d Infantry Brigade from Panama is essential for the fulfillment of the Panama Canal Treaty.

[Perez Balladares] "We must ensure there will be no further military presence in Panama after 31 December 1999. I believe this is a clear demonstration of both countries' positive intentions to fulfill our commitment."

Carlos Mendoza, a member of the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI], reaffirmed that the gradual retreat of U.S. troops from Panama is a definitive step established by the Canal Treaty. He added the assets that will revert to Panamanian jurisdiction will be honestly and properly administrated, thanks to the organization created specifically for that task.

[Mendoza] "The plans we have include the reversion of Fort. Espinar, or what remains of Espinar to revert, Fort. Davis and Fort. Amador, the reversion of which will occur next year. In addition, as I have outlined in Coco Solo, we will soon have the container port for Colon."

The number of U.S. troops stationed in Panama will be reduced over the next 18 months, from 11,000 to 6,000, and many forts and other valuable assets will revert to Panamanian jurisdiction. The process will conclude on 31 December, 1999.

Canal Treaty Implementation Program Detailed

PA0606002094 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Jun 94 pp A11, A12

[Text] **The Panama Canal Treaties**

In September 1977 the United States and the Republic of Panama signed two new treaties and thus embarked on a consortium to administer, operate and defend the Panama Canal. The Panana Canal Treaty of 1977 regulates the operation, administration, and defense of the canal until midday on 31 December 1999. On that date the Panama Canal will revert to Panama and the U.S. military presence in Panama will end. After that date, only Panama will maintain forces on its national territory. The other treaty, the Treaty of Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, establishes the permanent neutrality of the canal for an indefinite period; it pledges that Panama and the United States will continue defending the canal and will ensure its permanent neutrality after the Panama Canal Treaty expires.

Both treaties were approved by Panama in a plebiscite on 23 October 1977, and the U.S. Senate gave its consent for ratification in March and April 1978. With the treaties taking effect on 1 October 1979, the Canal Zone and the Canal Zone Government were dissolved; the Panama Canal Company was replaced by the bi-national Panama Canal Commission; and Panama assumed general territorial jurisdiction over what until then had been the Canal Zone. The treaties also replaced the 1903 treaty between the United States and Panama (Hay/Bunau-Varilla Treaty), which regulated the operation and defense of the canal from the time of its construction (which concluded in 1914), and its subsequent amendments through the 1936 and 1955 treaties.

The Panama Canal Treaty assigns to the United States primary responsibility for the canal's defense until 1999. It grants the United States the right to maintain its military quarters and Armed Forces in Panama. These base rights will end when the treaty expires.

Initial Efforts in the Execution of the Treaty

Comprehensive planning for the total withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Panama began in 1986, which led to the creation of the Preliminary Plan for the Execution of the Treaty. This plan was an initial draft for the orderly and gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces from Panama by the end of the century and the transfer of their military installations and other facilities to the Panamanian government. Approval of the Treaty Implementation Plan was given by the U.S. assistant secretary of defense in February 1988 and the plan's preliminary structure was developed during the early months of 1989. These preliminary plans by the U.S. Department of Defense for the execution of the treaty were interrupted by the political crisis during the final part of the Noriega regime and by Operation Just Cause. Once Panama's democratic government was restored, the United States resumed planning of the transfer process.

Approval of the Treaty Implementation Plan

The Panama Canal Treaty Implementation Plan (PC-TIP in English), approved by the defense secretary on 3 February 1993, supersedes the preliminary plan for the implementation of the treaty and provides a conceptual guide and path for all the U.S. Defense Department agencies to implement the Panama Canal Treaty, in other words, to undertake in an orderly manner the gradual withdrawal of the 10,000 U.S. troops stationed in Panama and the reversion to Panama of the U.S. military installations and facilities by the end of 1999.

The PC-TIP was developed by the Southern Command headquarters and its different components (Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines), jointly with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Secretary's Office. The Department of the Army was appointed executing agent to coordinate subsequent plans and those logistical and financial requirements that are not unique to a specific military component. The Treaty Implementation Center of the Southern Command coordinates the plans for the continual implementation of the treaties. The center is the liaison of the Southern Command with the executing agent of the TIP (planning agency of the Panama Canal Treaty within the Department of the Army's headquarters), the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the U.S. Embassy in Panama, and the Panamanian Government for treaty implementation affairs.

Previously Transferred Military Properties

Several military properties were reverted to the Panamanian Government from 1979 to 1984, in compliance with the specific dates stipulated in the Panama Canal Treaty and related documents. There are no specific obligatory dates for reversion before 1999 of the 10 remaining major military installations and several other military facilities located outside these installations. From 1979 to the end of 1993, a total of 405 buildings (including 113 housing units) and 16,000 acres of land with their infrastructure of roads, water and power systems, fences, etc., have been transferred to Panama.

The remaining military facilities to be transferred to Panama by the end of 1999 encompass a total of 4,290 buildings located on approximately 77,000 acres of land.

Working Jointly With Panama

Since 1990, planning has included meeting with key Panamanian Government authorities in order to ensure an effective transition up until the end of 1999. In 1992, the U.S. Southern Command began to organize tours for the Panamanian authorities to the main military installations and facilities in order to provide a better idea of the magnitude of the structures to be turned over to Panama. In April 1992, the office responsible for coordinating the treaty execution plan was presented to the Panamanian Government.

A Joint Planning Group established in 1992 in Panama meets regularly in order to discuss issues related to the day-to-day planning of treaty implementation. The U.S. Southern Command continues to work closely with the Panamanian authorities through the Joint Planning Group, the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI), and the Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate (DEPAT), which falls under the Foreign Relations Ministry. The DEPAT was created in 1993 in order to develop the best conditions for a successful transfer of the aforementioned facilities.

Transfers and Short-Term Reductions

During 1992, while continuing with implementation plans by the three U.S. Southern Command service branches (that provide a detailed plan of the components to be executed by the PC-TIP), on 14 January 1993, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Southern Command announced the short-term transfer (1993-1995) of military assets to the Panamanian Government and the reduction of military personnel associated with this activity.

The military facilities scheduled to be transferred by the end of 1995, together with personnel reductions, includes Fort Amador and the Curundu housing area, on the Pacific side, and the rest of Fort Espinar (know before as Fort Gulick) and Fort Davis, as well as the rest of Coco Solo, including the Cristobal High School, on the Atlantic side.

Another significant building transfer is scheduled to take place on 31 May 1994 when the Coco Solo Medical Clinic (better known as the Coco Solo medical complex) will be turned over to the Panamanian Government during an official ceremony (through the ARI). The same complex will immediately be turned over to the Panamanian Social Security Fund, which will convert it into a social security hospital on the Atlantic side.

At present the PC-TIP calls for a 40 percent reduction of military personnel by the end of 1995, which means that the number of U.S. troops currently in Panama will be reduced from 10,000 to approximately 6,000. Consequently, the number of military families in Panama will also be reduced by approximately 3,000.

The number of troops will be reduced through the reduction, relocation, and deactivation of units. Army South's 193d Light Infantry Brigade will be deactivated in October 1994, and other Army units will also be reduced. The Air Force, Navy, and Marine Infantry will remain basically intact during this period.

The first large-scale reduction of forces will take place at the farewell ceremony on 3 June 1994 for the 193d Light Infantry Brigade at Fort Clayton. By the end of 1995, there will be reductions in the Army, Navy, and Marine Infantry to bring their numbers to approximately 6,000 troops.

The remaining U.S. military personnel will eventually be consolidated at the few remaining military installations as the units withdraw from Panama or are deactivated. Most of the U.S. forces will be consolidated at Howard Air Force Base, Rodman Naval Station, and Fort Kobbe (known as the HOROKO complex) at the entrance to the Panama Canal on the Pacific side, with a small force on the Atlantic side. These troops' withdrawal from Panama will be completed by the end of 1999, and the installations are scheduled for reversion to Panama at a relatively uniform pace during the four final years of the Panama Canal Treaty.

Relocation of the Southern Command General Headquarters

Thus far the place and date of the Southern Command General Headquarter's relocation is still unknown. The process of relocating a general headquarters is very complex and could generate very costly military construction. The Department of Defense is still studying this phase and considering alternatives. Nevertheless, the Southern Command General Headquarters will be relocated during the time remaining in the treaty.

PRD Source on Foreign Minister-Designate's U.S. Visit

PA0606001094 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 Jun 94 p E-20

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] A Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) source reported that during his trip to the United States Foreign Relations Minister-Designate Gabriel Lewis Galindo discussed possible joint actions between the two governments to fight drug trafficking and money laundering.

According to the source, Lewis Galindo also discussed the possibility of Panama's joining the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The source said that Galindo met with President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares to deliver a detailed report on his discussions with the U.S. Government. It was learned that one of the points most discussed by Galindo and U.S. authorities was the establishment of possible formulas to fight drug-money laundering.

He said that the U.S. authorities are concerned about Panama's image abroad as a money laundering center through its banking centers. The source said that another topic discussed was the reduction of U.S. troops in Panamanian territory. Likewise, the source reported that Perez Balladares will today travel to Bocas del Toro Province where he will announce a series of government investments he plans to implement after he takes office in September.

Poll: President-Elect Has 74.7 Percent Approval

PA0606030194 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Jun 94 p 5A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) yesterday released the results of a poll by the "Artaki" enterprise that shows that 74.7 percent of the Panamanians interviewed approve of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares' work up to now. The poll, which was conducted between 27 and 29 May, was done through social-level samplings, with 774 people interviewed in Panama and San Miguelito Districts.

According to a PRD press release, most of the people interviewed approve of Perez Balladares' activities as Panama's president-elect, while 22.7 percent of those polled disapprove. On his choice of cabinet members, the poll indicates that 62.7 percent agree with the appointments, while 27.3 percent disagree.

In another arena, the poll disclosed that 70.4 percent of those interviewed believe that general living conditions in Panama will improve, while 25.7 percent believe they will worsen. A news bulletin states that the poll results are the first since the 8 May elections. The bulletin adds that the public opinion poll gives the president-elect "a vote of confidence" and offers him a letter of credit.

IDB Confirms Not Lending Panama $270 Million

PA0606043994 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jun 94

[From the "Day to Day" newscast]

[Text] The Inter-American Development Bank [IDB] today confirmed that it will not be able to lend Panama $270 million for investments, because public enterprises have not been privatized, nor have they reduced their expenses.

Mulino Requests Panama To Be Site of NAM Summit

PA0406195594 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 2

[By Jose Otero]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Mulino requested yesterday the support of countries in the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) for Panama to be given the seat of the next NAM heads of state summit in 1999, to "show to the world the country that is to manage the Canal in the next century."

Mulino made this request during his main speech before the 11th NAM Foreign Relations Ministers meeting currently being held in Cairo, Egypt.

"I hope my successors at the foreign ministry will support and honor Panama's request to be the seat of the NAM heads of state summit in 1999," Mulino emphasized.

The foreign minister added in his speech that, if this request is granted, Panama will secure its most important commitment to the world.

Mulino called on all NAM member countries to prepare and back the initiative unanimously as a homage to the Panamanian people.

"We advance, without having any time to loose or any margin for errors, toward the historic commitment of receiving the Panama Canal on 31 December 1999," Mulino added.

Endara Views Central American Integration

PA0606032894 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 Jun 94 p 1

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has confirmed that Panama must conclude the process of integration with Central American and through this process achieve induction into the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] among the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Endara said that the Central American countries could make economic arrangements with the North American countries to gain entry to NAFTA.

According to Endara, efforts to consolidate Panama's integration with Central America have continued and should be pursued by the next administration. President Endara was critical of remarks by members of the new administration, who said that Panama should attempt to gain entry into NAFTA before achieving integration with Central America. He said that considerable progress has not yet been made with regard to integration with the Caribbean countries, but that some efforts have been made with the Dominican Republic.

Among the most important steps taken to achieve Panama's integration with Central America was the creation of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which embodies the organizations, institutions, and commissions for integration.

The SICA was established as the legal regional integration organization with which all the countries would conduct consultations concerning difficulties with integration. A commission for Central American development has also been created to prepare work plans for the promotion of the region's economic growth. Additionally, a Legal Mutual Assistance Treaty is being signed by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama to combat the criminal activities most common to the region.

President Endara To Pardon Political Offenders

PA0406214494 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Jun 94

[From the "Telemetro Reports" newscast]

[Text] As for the statement made by President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares regarding an amnesty that would put an end to political persecution, President Guillermo Endara announced this morning that he is preparing a pardon to benefit those who committed some type of political crime during the previous government.

Endara said he will ask the Cabinet Council on Wednesday for an 11-day leave to travel abroad starting on 10 June. During his absence Vice President Guillermo Ford will be in charge. The president also said he is preparing a pardon that would complement the amnesty law being discussed at the Legislative Assembly.

[Begin recording] [Endara] Since the elections, since before the elections I had planned to grant a pardon immediately after the elections. Great progress has been made on the pardon. The Legislative Assembly, however, has had the same idea, but the fact that I will grant a pardon does not mean the Legislative Assembly cannot grant its amnesty. They are separate measures. I will proceed with my studies of the pardon, and, perhaps before I take my leave, I will have the pardon ready.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the pardon benefit those who have committed different types of crimes?

[Endara] Only political-type crimes. I am fundamentally concentrating on the 510 corregimiento representatives, who made a political decision, a very dumb one by the way. It was a political-type decision, and they do not have to be politically persecuted for that political decision. I am talking about the case of the 510 corregimiento representatives who made that decision. I am also concentrating on the case of the Council of State, which elected Francisco Rodriguez president even though it did not have the authority to do so. It was strictly a political decision. I am fundamentally concentrating on those two cases. [end recording]

President Endara noted that the pardon will not benefit Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who is under arrest and is accused of plotting against the government.

[Begin Endara recording] As for the case of Mr. Eduardo Herrera, he committed serious mistakes against a budding democracy in its most critical moments. He was one of the persons who was called upon to protect democracy, but the first thing he did was to try to overthrow it. I am not going to include Mr. Herrera in my pardon. [end recording]

Endara Backs Court on Electoral Tribunal Reform

PA0506164794 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 1

[By Ibeth Vega G.]

[Excerpts] President Guillermo Endara yesterday expressed his agreement with the Supreme Court's opposition to the constitutional reforms that grant the Electoral Tribunal the power to interpret the Constitution on electoral issues.

Endara indicated that if the Electoral Tribunal members "do not make the corrections quickly, I believe the bill (with the constitutional reforms) is in danger of failing."

Endara's remarks come after the Supreme Court announced its opposition to the constitutional reforms that permit the Electoral Tribunal to interpret the Constitution on electoral issues. The Supreme Court considers the reforms "inadvisable" for the administration of justice.

"I know the court's opinion, and I personally agree with it," added Endara. [passage omitted]

The executive branch presented to the Legislative Assembly two constitutional reforms to grant autonomy to the Electoral Tribunal and to eliminate the possibility of an army existing in the country.

Nevertheless, according to Supreme Court President Arturo Hoyos, the justices unanimously agree that the first reform is inadvisable.

"In the way it has been proposed, this reform might be a source of constant conflict between the Electoral Tribunal and the Supreme Court of Justice," Hoyos added.

President Signs Freedom of Expression Document

PA0506184794 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] In the presence of top members of the boards of directors of the country's media, President Guillermo Endara Galimany signed the Chapultepec Declaration, a document that guarantees freedom of expression and freedom of the press in the democracies of the hemisphere.

The Palace of the Herons was the site for the signature of this important document, during a ceremony headed by President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

The Chapultepec Declaration is the product of an historic hemispheric conference held at the Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City on 11 March 1994. It includes 10 principles, which establish that freedom of expression is a right. It also points out that the media and journalists must not be the object of discrimination or favors because of what they may or may not say or write. The declaration points out that the credibility of the media is linked to its commitment to truth, the search for accuracy, impartiality, and fairness in the information being released.

[Begin recording] [LA PRENSA Director Roberto Eisenmann] It is said that freedom of expression is the mother of all freedoms. I want to tell you, colleagues, that the president of the Republic, is not signing this document for simple protocol. We can testify that he has personally studied the document. He has consulted us, he has thought it out very well because we know of his deep convictions regarding freedom of expression.

[EL PANAMA AMERICA Director Rosario Arias de Galindo] This document is especially important because of the events in our recent history. We hope to be able to understand it so as never to allow our freedom of expression to be taken away. [end recording]

President Guillermo Endara Galimany, when delivering his speech, said the ceremony was a protocol event because Panamanians enjoy freedom of expression and democracy.

[Begin Endara recording] I have respected freedom of expression. It has hurt me, I must confess it. The use of this freedom has hurt me, but the injury to government officials in general, not only myself, can never cause us to say that because it hurts us we will not allow the media to make use of its freedom of expression. A democratic president has the duty of defending this freedom no matter how much power he may have, including constitutional and legal powers. A democratic president must tolerate, as Panamanians say, he has to resist it. [end recording]

The president of the Republic noted that freedom of expression has to be defended at all costs and he said he was optimistic the new government will respect that right.

[Begin Endara recording] Despite certain doubts we may have had, I have the conviction that the new government will respect freedom of expression, but if it does not respect it—and I do think it will respect it—we all have the duty, including myself, to take to the streets to defend freedom of expression. [end recording]

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the participants agreed that the Declaration of Chapultepec, which places an emphasis on freedom of expression, is a key element for strengthening democracy.

Assembly Leader Notes Flaws in Coordination

PA0306221494 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Report by Ciro Ortega from "The RPC Television News"]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly cannot be the guarantor of any agreement between the government and the International Financial Institutions [IFI], according to Legislative Assembly President Arturo Vallarino.

Vallarino pointed out that it is not the Legislative Assembly's fault that the IFI's are not making disbursements because of laws that have not been approved. The Legislative Assembly will not give urgent treatment to the bills that are necessary for reaching agreements between the national government and the IFI's. Arturo Vallarino emphatically said that the Legislative Assembly is never consulted about the alleged priorities.

[Begin recording] [Vallarino] If there is time, if the bills are considered necessary for the improvement of the administration of justice or for the social improvement of Panamanians, then we are going to approve them, but if we believe the bills do not have the importance or the priority for the country, then they will have to wait until the Legislative Assembly considers them, approves them, or rejects them.

[Ortega] Has the government failed to coordinate with the Legislative Assembly in view of such an important economic situation?

[Vallarino] We believe it is a flaw. That is why the Legislative Assembly approved a bill requiring that all commitments above $10 million be approved by the

Legislative Assembly; the Executive has systematically been refusing to follow that procedure. The Legislative Assembly cannot be responsible for commitments made by the Executive simply because of the money it will receive. As long as the Executive refuses to allow the Legislative Assembly to intervene in the processing of the credits, we are going to find these types of conflicts.

[Ortega] Is there a solution to this problem on this occasion?

[Vallarino] The president has not yet approached us to try to convince us to pay special attention to the bills. He has simply said: Approve these bills because the disbursement of money depends on it. We believe that we are not going to reach an agreement within this system. [end recording]

Vallarino pointed out that it is never too late to correct flaws in coordination, especially in the political and economic arena.

Argentina

Cavallo Denies 'U.S. Pressure' Caused Condor Project Cancellation

PY0306132094 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2151 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Jun (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo today said the Condor-2 missile project was drafted by "a gang of European mafia members who used our territory to develop technology that in fact was theirs."

Without mentioning names or nationalities of these alleged mafia members, the minister said President Carlos Menem decided to dismantle the project because he was certain the initiative "did not help Argentine interests."

Cavallo said this during a public hearing before Congress about the pharmaceuticals patents law. He compared the decision to dismantle the Condor-2 project to the efforts to ratify a law that recognizes the intellectual property of foreign laboratories. Cavallo said that both seek "to foster international trust in Argentina."

While delivering his lengthy speech about the official patents draft bill, the minister harshly clashed with Radical Civic Union Senator Conrado Storani who said the Condor-2 Project was an example of the capacity of the Argentine scientists and technicians.

The economy minister bluntly rejected this opinion, saying the initiative was "really bad for our country."

He revealed that at the end of the Persian Gulf War, the U.S. forces found in Iraq a project similar to the Falda del Carmen facilities in Cordoba Province, where Condor was developed.

"The Condor project was not dismantled earlier because some Argentines asserted it would be giving in to U.S. pressure," Cavallo said.

Cavallo mentioned Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, retired, the former Air Force commander, as one who supported the theory of "not giving in to U.S. pressure."

CNEA, Canada Negotiating Installation of Untested Nuclear Reactor

PY0306210494 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 51

[Text] Although the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) admitted only yesterday that negotiations had been under way, the Canadian atomic energy company has affirmed that Argentina signed a "memorandum of understanding" for the installation of another nuclear reactor in the country.

Argentina's plans to acquire a new nuclear plant are expressed in a document signed with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL), which will be in charge of conducting a feasibility study for installing a Candu-3 reactor, similar to the one installed at the Embalse nuclear plant in Cordoba. The new nuclear plant would cost about $600 million.

There are at least two curious things about this report. One is that AECL Chairman Bruce Howe himself admitted before the Canadian Congress that the economic viability of the kind of reactor Argentina is interested in buying is "doubtful".

The second is that in response to CLARIN, the CNEA press office admitted only yesterday that "negotiations have been under way, although nothing has been signed." This contradicts a report on the signing of the agreement, which was published in the 17 March issue of NUCLEONICS WEEK, the most prestigious publication on international nuclear industry matters.

Even more curious is the title of this article: "Despite the Unclear Economics of Candu-3, Argentina Will Try." The article states that "despite AECL's doubts about the economic viability of Candu-3, the company is trying to sell it abroad (...)." It also announces the signing of a memorandum of understanding with CNEA to conduct a feasibility study to interconnect a 450 megawatt reactor to the Argentine energy generator system.

According to biologist Raul Montenegro, chairman of the Foundation for the Defense of the Environment [Fundacion para la Defensa del Ambiente] (FUNAM), the idea of installing in Argentina a reactor that "the Canadians themselves believe is not economical shows that Argentina continues to be the test tube for developed countries."

Although CNEA has officially denied the signing of this agreement, an important CNEA researcher has confirmed the report to CLARIN. He asserted that "no reactor of this kind is yet operating in the entire world." This means that if this reactor is installed in Argentina, it will be the first ever, the same as happened with Atucha-1, which—according to experts—resulted in so many problems precisely because it was a prototype whose manufacture was later discontinued, and which had not been previously tested.

The report not only contradicts the international trend to reduce the use of nuclear energy in the production of electricity. It also seems to contradict the theory upheld by some government areas: In the last issue of ECONOMIC NEWS magazine—issued by the Mediterranean Foundation, connected, naturally, to Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo—Economist Juan Novara states that "contrary to what is publicized, nuclear energy is not clean, cheap, or price competitive."

The "fourth nuclear plant," is, however, not as contradictory within the framework of the program to privatize all nuclear plants. This idea is promoted by Cavallo himself, on the basis of the deficit in this area: Because about $900 million per year are invested in nuclear energy, and only $300 million obtained from energy sales, this deficit could be decreased by allowing private business to be in charge of selling electricity and the government in charge of its control. A country that offers four nuclear plants, instead of the two that are currently operating, would be more attractive.

Perhaps all these doubts (economic efficiency, privatization, which is still resisted within the CNEA, and naturally, the risks that nuclear energy entails) may have caused an apparently simple commercial transaction to become a state secret.

The memorandum signed between Argentina and Canada does not specify the work to be done, or where the future nuclear plant would be installed. This will be the fourth nuclear plant, if Atucha-2 is ever completed. It can be ascertained, however, that this information is being studied, as according to what AECL reported in March, the agreement estimates that "the first results will be provided by mid-year."

Half of the year has passed already, and CNEA has not even reported the existence of this memorandum of understanding.

Raul Montenegro, former Cordoba Province energy under secretary, has informed CLARIN, however, that "logical economics on the output of this type of reactor state that it would be viable only if it were situated next to the Embalse Rio Tercero nuclear plant."

This is not an outlandish idea if we consider that the site next to the Embalse Rio Tercero nuclear plant was preselected about eight years ago, when the idea of installing a fourth nuclear plant was still prevalent.

CNEA experts consulted by CLARIN agreed with this theory. They said: "There are very few sites in the country where this reactor would be economically viable. Embalse Rio Tercero is one of those."

Angeloz Elected To Head UCR Political Action Committee

PY0306202394 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Jun 94 pp 12, 13

[Excerpt] [Cordoba Governor] Eduardo Angeloz began an obstacle race against the clock on 1 June. At the UCR [Radical Civic Union] executive committee offices on 1 June, he was installed as head of the brand new Political Action Committee. The committee is made up of 25 men who represent a variety of UCR internal factions.

Angeloz announced that "he is willing to accept" an electoral alliance for the 1995 presidential election based "on common principles" with other political parties that "share our concern over our country's social situation." Nevertheless, he said he would decide on his possible presidential candidacy after the UCR is reorganized.

The Political Action Committee will be responsible for presenting within 90 days an ambitious project aimed at turning the UCR "upside down" and totally reorganizing it in order to overcome the deep crisis prompted by various electoral defeats and the storm provoked by the Olivos Pact [between UCR President Raul Alfonsin and President Carlos Menem on constitutional reform].

Yesterday was a key day for the Cordoba governor. His presidential candidacy largely depends on his success in this effort. At the UCR executive committee offices, Angeloz managed to gather the representatives of almost all UCR internal factions. San Isidro Mayor Melchor Posse smartly encouraged the cheerful participation of a large number of party members who constantly applauded and cheered Angeloz.

[Senator] Fernando de la Rua was the only one absent. He is convinced that the Political Action Committee, devised by Angeloz and approved by Alfonsin, conceals an agreement between Angeloz and Alfonsin since no deadline has been established for Alfonsin's early departure as UCR head. De la Rua refused to participate [in the committee]. In the eyes of other UCR people, he seems to be the only one hoping to become the anti-Alfonsin opposition leader. [passage omitted]

Ω Media Notes: Pharmaceutical Patents Law

94P20842A

[Editorial Report]

Bauza Pressures PJ Senators

According to the 4 May Buenos Aires daily CLARIN, Secretary General of the Presidency Eduardo Bauza, at the request of President Carlos Menem, on 3 May met with Justicialist Party (PJ) senators to urge them to approve the draft Patents Law "whatever the cost." CLARIN explained that "if the law is approved, Clinton will invite Argentina to join NAFTA, and if the law is not approved, there will be harsh trade sanctions against Argentina after 30 June."

The daily noted that in spite of Senate President Eduardo Menem's promise that the Senate would approve the draft law by 30 June—the deadline set by the United States for passage of the law before trade sanctions would be applied—there are no signs that both houses of Congress will pass the law by that time. The draft law must pass through five committees before it can be approved and sent to the lower chamber. Furthermore, "there is every indication that its movement through the Chamber of Deputies will be more difficult than through the Senate," CLARIN emphasized. The daily added that when U.S. Ambassador James Cheek stated he was confident the Argentine Congress would approve the law by the 60-day deadline, he "did not take into account" the opposition of the Radical Party (UCR) bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, which wants to discuss ratification of the GATT treaty, with its section on intellectual property rights, before discussing the Patent Law.

CLARIN commented that the terms of the GATT agreement are more advantageous for Argentina than the draft Patent Law.

Granillo Ocampo on Possible Sanctions Delay

On 9 May Argentine Ambassador to Washington Raul Granillo Ocampo said that the 60-day limit the United States had allowed Argentina for approval of the Patents Law before trade santions would go into effect "would probably be extended to six months," according to the 10 May Buenos Aires daily LA NACION. After that time, the ambassador predicted, the U.S. Government would impose trade sanctions if intellectual property rights do not receive adequate protection in Argentina. Granillo Ocampo confirmed the Argentine Government's "commitment" to approve a "new patents law which would recognize the intellectual property rights of [pharmaceutical] laboratories."

Bolivia

Military Leader Warns Against Foreign Intervention, 'Anarchy'

PY0406012394 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 31 May 94 p 7

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Fernando Sanjines warned yesterday that foreign interests want to meddle in the country's internal affairs, and demanded that solutions to the many national problems must come from the Bolivian people.

He said it would be dangerous if anarchy descended on the country, as this would go against the country's need for development. Gen. Sanjines also reiterated his support for the state of law.

He added: "From the prudent viewpoint of not discussing political issues and putting ourselves within a realistic framework, we believe that the solution to our problems should be entrusted to capable Bolivian statesmen, as accepting foreign influence would lead to greater complications."

These comments were made during the 165th anniversary of the Armed Forces General Staff, a celebration headed by President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Sanjines recalled that since the birth of Bolivia as an independent republic, threats of the division of society and interference by foreign interests have caused irreparable damage throughout its history.

He said that this concern has allowed the armed institutions to become the country's moral reserve and national identity in the face of possible threats to the legally established government, and to become the indissoluble part of the dearest aspirations of the Bolivian people for progress and development.

Sanjines said: "We have improved our criteria in these 12 years for preserving legality, our sole concern being to diminish dependency. And this is an objective mainly based on political stability, which is the basis for economic potential and social justice, which in turn are the result of productivity and efficiency."

He also demanded the careful reorganization of the Armed Forces on the basis of the country's real requirements, and not on the basis of personal or subordinated criteria.

He also called for: "The conciliation of human and material requirements that would ensure the better fulfillment of our mission of protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity."

He also called for understanding among the different social sectors to overcome the problems of the country through dialogue and agreement.

He also rejected what he called "the latent threat of anarchy and its terrible outcome of instability, which could scare away investments and slow the enthusiasm for new efforts to make economic growth possible, which is the basis for creating more jobs."

Indigenous Groups Hold Preparatory Meeting in Cochabamba

PY0306133494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2237 GMT 1 Jun 94

[Text] Cochabamba, Bolivia 1 Jun (EFE)—The preparatory meeting for the "International Decade of the World's Indigeous People" closed today in Cochabamba, Bolivia, with the approval of a document to be submitted to the United Nations.

The document contains 53 resolutions vindicating the cultural identity of indigenous peoples, along with their political, social and economic rights.

Guatemalan Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu presided over the meeting which started on 31 May. She stated today that indigenous peoples hope their demands will be formally recognized by all UN member-countries.

Menchu said the resolutions approved in Cochabamba will become mandatory for all countries worldwide once they are approved by the UN General Assembly.

Commenting on what transpired during the meeting in Cochabamba, some 400 km east of La Paz, Bolivian Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas—himself an Aymara Indian—said: "Indigenous peoples can achieve development without renouncing their own culture."

The "International Decade of the World's Indigenous People" starts on 10 December 1994 and closes on 9 December 2004.

Beside Menchu and Cardenas, 120 delegates from diverse indigenous communities and government organizations from different countries attended the meeting in Cochabamba.

Brazil

Army Ministry Buys Russian Antiaircraft Missiles, Launchers

PY0306214194 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Jun 94 p 5

[Article by Sandra Brasil]

[Text] Brasilia—The Ministry of the Army purchased 112 portable Igla anti-aircraft missiles and 56 launchers from Russia on 31 May. This type of missile is used by ground soldiers to shoot down low-flying planes and helicopters. The Army said the missiles are 100 percent efficient.

According to General Gilberto Serra, head of the Army Social Communications Center (Cecomsex), the Army used part of the $100 million it has allocated to purchase Russian armaments to purchase the missiles.

"We purchased the missiles because it was good business. We are conducting studies to manufacture them locally, but it takes a country 10 years to develop the appropriate technology for that type of equipment", the general said.

Serra said this is the first time Brazil has purchased weapons in Russia. The deal was made possible thanks to an agreement signed between the Industry and Commerce Ministry and the Russian Federation providing for the import and export of the most diverse kinds of products manufactured in the two countries.

In the next four years the trade exchange between Brazil and Russia should reach $2 billion.

The Army General Staff is analyzing what other kinds of military equipment could be purchased in Russia with the remaining $100 million allocated to the Army by that international trade agreement.

"Our interest is in purchasing as much as possible with as little money as possible. The Igla missile has already been tested under battle conditions, and it is one of the most modern in the world," Gen. Serra said.

Negotiations between the Brazilian Army and the Russian weapon industries started in September of last year, when Minister Zenildo de Lucena visited Russia.

The Army informed Armed Forces members about the purchase of the 112 anti-aircraft missiles and 56 launchers on 27 May. Each missile is 1.68 meters in length, and missile and launcher together weigh 18 kg.

'Cautious Stance' Adopted on Armed Intervention in Haiti

PY0406004694 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] The Brazilian Government has adopted a cautious stance concerning the news that the ousted president of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has apparently endorsed armed intervention in his country.

This would be Aristide's solution for reinstatement as president, from which post he was unseated in 1991 by a military junta. The news was released today by an international news agency. Foreign Minister Celso Amorim stated that the Brazilian Government feels that the use of force would be an extreme measure. Amorim believes this is a complex question, and one first has to see whether the sanctions applied by the United Nations against the Haitian military yield positive results. He said:

[Begin Amorim recording] For the time being, the United Nations, the UN Security Council—the appropriate body to apply coercive measures—has renewed and stepped up sanctions against the de facto Haitian Government. I think we have to verify whether these more stringent sanctions are working. Moreover, an armed intervention is a most complex question. It is difficult... [pauses] We acknowledge the legitimate objective of having President Aristide reinstated in office, and we have supported this, but the use of force is something that always inspires caution and needs to be examined with great care. [end recording]

Infantry Company To Join UN Forces in Mozambique

PA0506193194 Paris AFP in Spanish 1703 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Brasilia, 5 Jun (AFP)—The Brazilian Government will send an Army infantry company to assist the UN peacekeeping mission in Mozambique, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, based at the Itamaraty Palace, officially announced on Sunday.

The Brazilian decision to send infantry troops was in response to a request made by the United Nations. Brazil currently has 94 observers, 27 soldiers, and 67 policemen posted in Mozambique.

Likewise, the Foreign Ministry informed that Walter Costa Porto, constitutional law professor at the University of Brasilia, was appointed member of the Mozambican Electoral Tribunal, which will supervise the elections scheduled for October.

The Itamaraty communique stated that "this participation reveals the Brazilian commitment to UN operations for the preservation of peace and its commitment to the efforts to promote national reconciliation in Mozambique."

Temporary Real-Dollar Parity Announced, Effective 1 July

PY0306193694 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Jun 94 Section 1 p 10

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero said yesterday that as of 1 July—when the real will replace the real cruzeiro as legal tender—and for an unspecified time, one real will be worth one dollar.

The issuance of the real will be backed by part of the Brazilian exchange reserves, which currently stand at $38 billion, considering the concept of international liquidity (which includes both available and applied resources).

The opening of checking accounts in dollars will not be permitted and the current rules governing the exchange of foreign currency will be maintained. Thus, there will be no free convertibility of the real.

Ricupero stated that the real will be backed only by exchange reserves, consisting of foreign currency and gold. Stocks of state-owned companies will not be used to back the issuance of the real. [passage omitted]

PT Seeks Electoral Law Change To Allow Labor Union Donations

PY0306192994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 3 Jun 94 p 6

[Article by Joyce Russi]

[Text] Brasilia—The PT [Workers Party] yesterday asked the Federal Supreme Court [STF] to declare the electoral law that forbids parties and candidates from receiving donations from labor unions as unconstitutional. The PT wants the STF to declare the law unconstitutional, alleging that it contradicts the principle of equality because it does not forbid companies from contributing to the campaigns of parties or candidates of their liking.

The petition pertains to Paragraph 6, Article 45 of Law No. 8713/93. The PT's decision to question the mentioned law follows an incident a week ago involving PT presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, against whom charges have been filed for having campaigned outside factories in Sao Bernard do Campo using the public address truck of the metal workers union of the Sao Paulo ABC industrial region.

The PT does not like the fact that it can speak to a group of businessmen in the auditorium of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP) but cannot address a group of workers using their labor union public address truck.

Lula Denies Party Links to Landless People's Movement

PY0406004494 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 94 p A11

[Text] PT [Workers Party] presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva yesterday denied any links between his party and the Landless People's Movement (MST). "I don't believe in that," Lula said while on a Brasilia-Sao Paulo flight, on his way back from a Citizens' Caravan tour of Brasilia satellite towns. "I have no information on the PT being engaged in organizing the movement."

"People have no land because they have no government," he said. Lula emphasized he knows people in the landless movement, and knows they like to be independent. "They are even sectarian," he noted, adding he does not believe they would tolerate anyone's leadership.

Sole Workers Center (CUT) President Vicente Paulo da Silva, aka Vicentinho, yesterday labelled "terrorist" a Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE) report on the MST. "To me it's an anti-Lula report," he said. "I do not believe a bit of what it says, and I will go to the places where the intelligence service has spotted guerrilla bases to prove that this is not true," he added.

Solidarity

According to Vicentinho, the MST and the CUT are "on good terms." "We feel solidarity for the movement, but the MST is an independent organization," he added. "The Metalworkers' Union of the Sao Paulo industrial belt has already helped the MST camps by sending them food, but the communities of the areas near the occupied zones have also provided them food and medicines."

Vicentinho believes the MST has no armed structure. "I believe they are even pacifist," he said, "because they are just fighting for a piece of land and for the right to live." Vicentinho also denied charges of MST radicalism. "Saying that the MST is a leftist movement is very different from saying what the SAE report said."

Doubts

Acting National Confederation of Farmworkers (Contag) President Aloisio Carneiro also cast doubts on the report. "The MST is an independent organization and has nothing to do with Contag," he said, adding that "all the same I do not believe in the SAE report." Carneiro said that MST and Contag are also on good terms. "Like the MST, our congresses chose occupation as a method for action," he said. "It is a form of pressuring the government to implement land reform."

Former Peasant Leader Interviewed on Land Problems

PY0406020794 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 94 p A11

[Interview with Jose Luis Sobrinho, former leader of the Sole Workers Central, CUT, and Landless People's Movement, MST, by Angela Lacerda; place and date not given]

[Text] [Lacerda] What can you tell us about the report on the existence of a guerrilla training center at the Workers Ranch?

[Sobrinho] I do not know. It could be a rumor, spread by people with interests in the area or by ill-informed individuals. What we cannot deny is that the MST is starting to have a war image, which is not real and which does not help the struggle for agrarian reform. They make a lot of noise and obtain poor results. It is a case of "too much potato and too little meat."

[Lacerda] Do you think the MST is the appropriate channel for achieving agrarian reform?

[Sobrinho] No. The MST is one of the instruments. What I criticize in this movement, and what I try to tell our fellow peasants, is that the agrarian reform is not the responsibility of a single entity. I do not question MST's good intentions, but the movement has adopted policies characterized by imposition, bureaucracy, and state ownership. If we are not careful, the MST will end up as a paternalistic movement, considering itself to be the sole representative of agrarian reform. We have already seen conflicts in expropriated areas on the issue of land ownership. Does the land belong to workers or to the MST? I am not supporting capitalism as a solution, but it is necessary to find a middle ground.

[Lacerda] But the MST has helped landless people, has it not?

[Sobrinho] Sometimes they act in radical ways and end up losing the people's support for causes that are absolutely just. Landless peasants often invade unproductive areas or land owned by people who are indebted to the state.

[Lacerda] What else do you condemn in the MST?

[Sobrinho] First I want to make clear that I believe the MST is doing an important job. But I am worried about the movements' narrow views. Agrarian reform does not mean simply conquering the land. Our experience shows that most people who have benefited from a piece of land abandon their lots if they have the tools to work them. This occurs because landless peasants are led to believe that all their problems will end when they settle on a new piece of land. Things are quite different in real life.

[Lacerda] What do you think is needed, then?

[Sobrinho] Peasants occupying a piece of land need to eat until their land starts producing. They need medical care. They need to learn how to read, and credit to start cultivating. I think they need a comprehensive program with the support of many entities and groups until they can stand on their own two legs.

[Lacerda] Are landless peasants prepared to produce?

[Sobrinho] Most of them are not. It is not their fault that they lack preparation. People from the northeastern forest zones, for instance, became used to factory salaries. Workers' unions are not doing anything to prepare these people to become farmers.

[Lacerda] Do you believe an agrarian reform encompassing all those aspects is viable?

[Sobrinho] Yes. It is arduous, but a true agrarian reform will require a lot of work. Those who think that an agrarian reform can be implemented only through the installation of a socialist state are completely wrong. Besides, the right as well as the left agree on the need for change in land ownership policies. I think there is lack of government political willingness, on one hand, as well as lack of planning and reasoning by those organizing and struggling with workers and landless peasants.

Landless People's Movement Official Interviewed

PY0406033794 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 94 p A11

[Text] In an interview granted yesterday to O ESTADO by fax, Joao Pedro Stedile—one of the most important members of the National Coordinating Board of the Landless People's Movement, MST—said that the target of the SAE [Strategic Affairs Secretariat] report is not the movement. "People are afraid of Lula's candidacy," he said. Here are some of Stedile's answers:

[O ESTADO] How does the MST evaluate the SAE report?

[Stedile] It is a shame. It is an action typical of retired military spies [arapongas]. It must have been a vice acquired during the days of the military dictatorship. In the last few months, the MST National Coordinating Board met the president of the Republic. The president promised to begin a program to settle 100,000 families. The labor minister visited our encampment. Minister Mario Flores (of the SAE) does not need to pay the retired military to watch us. We invite them to visit. We will show them all of our very Brazilian weapons, such as hunger, unproductive farms, children without schools, and a great desire to work.

[O ESTADO] What is the MST's ideological trend?

[Stedile] The MST was born from the workers' need to ensure the implementation of the agrarian reform. The Constitution establishes that all unproductive land must be expropriated. No ideological motivation is required.

[O ESTADO] What about guerrilla training at Ipojuca, which was mentioned in the SAE report, and the objectives of the armed fight at Bico do Papagaio [a region in the northern part of Tocantins State]?

[Stedile] This is nonsense. The Ipojuca settlement was established by the Liberal Front Party government. In Tocantins State, the MST does not even exist.

[O ESTADO] Does the MST have members from other countries?

[Stedile] That is another myth. The SNI [National Intelligence Service] (the organization that preceded the SAE) should know about international politics. With all the misery reigning in the country, we do not need foreigners to explain our reality to us.

[O ESTADO] What relation does the movement have with similar groups in South America, such as the Paraguayan MST?

[Stedile] Latin America has the Peasant and Indigenous Popular Movement of the 500 Years of Resistance. The MST, CUT [Sole Workers Center], indigenous groups, and black groups participate in this movement on Brazil's behalf.

[O ESTADO] What is role of CUT and the PT [Workers Party] in the movement?

[Stedile] We identify ourselves with CUT, and some MST militants and leaders are affiliated to the PT. People, however, support all parties. Some deputies, such as Mauro Bragato of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], are Sao Paulo Governor Fleury's leaders in the Assembly.

[O ESTADO] And the MST resources?

[Stedile] They basically come from our own grassroots. It is an illusion to think that our resources come from abroad. In many cases we receive support from the Church, and most of our encampments receive food from the government.

Chile

Mapu Lautaro Cell Dismantled in Santiago, Concepcion

PY0306222794 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 May 94 p C10

[Excerpt] As a result of two operations, one in Santiago and another in Concepcion, Dipolcar [Carabineros Intelligence Directorate] agents dismantled a Mapu Lautaro cell and arrested two men and one woman allegedly involved in terrorist actions.

The arrested people were identified as Daniel Andrade Sanchez, 26; Jorge Ruminot Sagredo, 24; and Ruth Tobar Montoya, 22, mother of a boy named Ruben who was born early this month.

The woman was arrested with Ruminot Sagredo during a dawn raid yesterday on a house at 1521-B Reumen Street near Pedro Fontova Street in the Conchali district.

According to Dipolcar agents, the cell had Mapu Lautaro literature and propaganda as well as plans of barracks and public service offices. [passage omitted]

Economy Minister Announces Fruit Exports to PRC

PY0306201594 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Chilean fruit will soon be sold in the PRC. This was asserted today by Economy Minister Alvaro Garcia who, on 1 June, returned from a tour of Asian countries, including Malaysia and China.

During his stay in the PRC, Garcia met with Chinese businessmen and officials who authorized the importation of Chilean apples and kiwi fruit. They also agreed to study the possible import of Chilean grapes and pears.

Garcia added that Sino-Chilean business meetings will be held with the objective of increasing bilateral trade and the undertaking of joint ventures. He also stressed that the PRC, which has 1.2 billion inhabitants, is very important for Chilean exports, adding that China has become an increasingly attractive market in view of its strong economic growth over the past three years.

Navy Commander Describes 'Effective' Occupation of Seas

PY0306221694 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 26 May 94 p 6

[Excerpt] Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch, Navy commander in chief, told LA TERCERA that Chile's effective occupation of its ocean territory can be accomplished only by increasing the merchant fleet capacity and fishing activities, scientific research, ocean sports, and the development of maritime culture, not only through art but also with photography, poetry, and novels.

These comments by the high-ranking Navy officer were in reaction to President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle's proposal to create, in six months, a National Oceanic Commission to seek the effective occupation of the seas.

Following his policy of refraining from public comment on issues raised by the highest political authorities of the country, Martinez Busch said, however, that when the commission is installed "our institution will be ready to provide all the necessary technical data to achieve the objectives proposed by the president." [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Rejects Amnesty Law in Letelier Case

PY0406032394 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] By 10 votes to three, the Supreme Court today ruled that the Amnesty Law is not applicable in the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The Supreme Court justices thus rejected a request filed by the attorneys of [General Manuel Contreras and Brigadier Pedro Espinoza], the former chiefs of Dina [National Intelligence Directorate], who claimed it was unconstitutional not to apply the 1978 Amnesty Law to Orlando Letelier's murder in 1976.

The ruling stipulates that the attack perpetrated in Washington will not be granted this benefit. Moreover, the Supreme Court enumerates several other elements in which it reiterates that in not applying the Amnesty Law to this lawsuit it is by no means acting arbitrarily.

[Begin prosecuting lawyer Juan Bustos recording] The fundamental thing within a rule of law is precisely to go after and condemn those who commit crimes. The contrary would be something exceptional, something which in general should not occur within a rule of law. [end recording]

The defense attorneys for Contreras and Espinoza still have another appeal pending. In addition, they appealed the judgment by Judge Rodolfo Banados, who sentenced the former Dina chiefs to seven and six years' imprisonment respectively.

Colombia

U.S. Radar Stations Continue To Function

PA0606035994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 6 Jun 94

[Report by Jorge Ivan Castro from the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] Despite the announcement that Colombia will no longer receive information from them, the gringo radars in our country are still functioning, and it is not yet known whether they will be dismantled. Many questions have been raised concerning the issue.

According to a bulletin released by the Colombian Air Force, the order issued unilaterally on 1 May by the U.S. Defense Department called for the suspension of satellite transmissions of the information obtained from the radars at the Air Force's control center. There has been no mention of plans to dismantle the tracking equipment or to continue supplying information to the gringo government.

A confidential source informed "AM/PM" that the radars are still being operated by U.S. personnel and that, in response to Colombia's request that the equipment be dismantled, the Defense Department requested a deadline of three months when the job can be done within a maximum of 10 days.

The United States has decided to stop providing Colombia with information because it believes that Colombia has violated several international agreements by ordering attacks on strange airplanes, as strange as the gringo military airplanes that frequently fly over Colombian territory without permission.

An official decision is still expected from the two governments with regard to this situation, which is just another case of the Gaviria administration's confusing and mysterious international policy.

Government To Counter 'Bad' Human Rights Image

PA0406030094 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by Ricardo Canon and Fernando Ramos from the "Midday Television Newscast"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and Defense Minister Rafael Pardo announced a big offensive abroad to counter Colombia's bad human rights image. Colombia will open its doors to all organizations that oversee human rights and display all acts of violence, facing up to reality without issuing unilateral, incomplete, or generalized information. The strategy, according to Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio, is the defense and promotion of a search to end impunity.

[Begin recording] [Sanin] We admit there are human rights problems in Colombia. What we cannot accept is the assertion by London's Amnesty International that the Colombian Government is involved in these violations. We encourage and defend human rights as a government. We do not accept the generalization made on violations of human rights by the Armed Forces either.

[Pardo] This should also be seen in the context of Colombia's crime and violence. It is not the same to have human rights violated in a perfect state, a state where everything is absolutely controlled, and where justice works like clockwork, rather than a state where there are constant reforms, a state that is developing new mechanisms and has overcome huge problems in its integration and judicial system. [end recording]

In today's meeting with the Colombian ambassadors to the European Union, the defense minister broached the topic of police reforms, which is one of the bases for the resolve to change. To reaffirm this will to change, the government would be willing to invite an Amnesty International commission to verify the situation on site.

All these arguments have become even more heated with the report by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights released a few days ago. Colombia does not get high marks from this report either. This document adds to Amnesty International's report and is what has the argument running red hot regarding the country's situation and reality.

[Begin OAS representative Raul Valladares recording] Due to the complexity of the Colombian situation, even greater efforts are called for, and this is basically what the report calls for. [end recording]

The argument is based on whether the human rights studies in Colombia are objective. For the Colombian Government, the lack of credibility of human rights reports, such as Amnesty International's, lies in the source of the data. The president, however, is not clear either on what investigative methodology is used.

[Begin presidential human rights adviser Carlos de Roux recording] The problem, nevertheless, is that one cannot say that most political homicides in Colombia are committed by public force members or criminal public force members. The public force is not responsible for most of these murders, and this is where Amnesty International's report is not truthful. [end recording]

A summit meeting will be held this afternoon between representatives of human rights organizations and the government to discuss criteria and face up to the problem. Human Rights Ombudsman Jaime Cordoba Trivino said that, although the human rights violations reports are exaggerated, the truth is that Colombia is also responsible. He added fuel to the argument by saying that Colombia is treating the matter mildly.

[Begin Cordoba recording] Human rights in Colombia is far more than a problem of international image. More than the solicitous actions of our ambassadors to the EC and the United States, what is really required is urgent government action, which should be fully committed to the Constitution and fully open and which should set out from the unquestionable basis of admitting that the truth of the matter is that it is very serious. [end recording]

Presidential candidate Ernesto Samper believes that an intermediate position should be sought in order to neutralize the serious economic effects that this argument could have at the international level.

[Begin Samper recording] Colombia should not attempt to hide the fact that human rights are violated. When these are proved we should accept this responsibility, but likewise, we expect international organizations to accept that Colombia is making efforts to control human rights violations. [end recording]

OAS Human Rights Report Criticizes Judicial System

PA0506021394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 4 Jun 94

[Report by Victor Javier from the "QAP Newscast"]

[Text] The latest report issued by the OAS Human Rights Committee focuses on the Colombian judicial system. It is not as harsh as the Amnesty International report, but it nevertheless leaves Colombia in a poor position regarding the defense of human rights. In a 400-page document, the OAS Human Rights Committee reports on the state of human rights in Colombia from 1990 to the present.

It concludes that the public security laws, the faceless judges, and secret witnesses and evidence harm the citizens' rights to defend themselves. The regulations regarding the state of emergency, which were recently approved at the National Congress as permanent legislation, violate international human rights agreements that Colombia signed and agreed to abide by. Military courts trying members of the Armed Forces, as a rule, hand down biased rulings. Torture is not a crime, according to Colombian legislation, and it is not prosecuted or punished.

The OAS Human Rights Committee recommends the following for the Colombian Government: In order to guarantee the human rights of all individuals, the secret justice system must be reformed. The government should enforce a state of emergency only in extremely serious situations. To ensure more just rulings, the civil justice system should try all those members of the Armed Forces who have been charged with a crime. Military immunity should be lifted in cases of torture, extra judicial executions, and disappearances.

[Begin Leo Valladares, member of the OAS Human Rights Committee, recording] We hope our report will serve to correct many of the mistakes we have found. [end recording]

The report concludes by criticizing Colombia for not following the human rights recommendations the OAS made in 1987.

Sanin Refutes Allegations of Rights Violations

PA0606000794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin de Rubio has characterized as biased and unfair the gruesome images shown by "NTC News" from the video in which Amnesty International denounces human rights violations in Colombia. The foreign minister said the situations presented in the video cannot be considered the result of a premeditated government policy.

[Begin Sanin de Rubio recording] I cannot, under any circumstance, allow the government to be blamed for this violence, these murders, and this so-called social cleansing. I cannot agree with that, nor can I believe that everyone in the police force is corrupt. [end recording]

The foreign minister said that the government's doors are open to visits from the international community and that she has issued specific instructions to Colombia's ambassadors to invite nongovernment human rights organizations to Colombia.

Bomb Kills Two in Arauca; Police Blame Rebels

PA0506144794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1355 GMT 5 Jun 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Jun (AFP)—A dynamite bomb of moderate force killed two people when it exploded. The two people were carrying the bomb this Sunday in downtown Arauca, capital of the eastern department bearing the same name, located near the border with Venezuela, 350 km east of Santa Fe de Bogota, according to police.

The victims, Elizabeth Medina and William Montilla, were riding a motorcycle in downtown Arauca when the bomb went off.

The Arauca police are investigating the incident and said the guerrillas are to blame for the bloody incident, considering the upcoming 19 June presidential elections, in which the successor of President Cesar Gaviria for the 1994-1998 period will be chosen.

Foreign Minister Discusses Chairing Nonaligned Movement

PA0406015794 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin Posada in Santa Fe de Bogota by Emisoras Caracol News Director Dario Arizmendi in Caracol's Santa Fe de Bogota studios; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] At 0704 we greet Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin Posada. Good morning.

[Sanin] Good morning, Dario.

[Arizmendi] What is the significance for Colombia of its chairing the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] for the next three years?

[Sanin] For us, this is very important recognition of Colombia's international policies. It is very important that 110 countries have unanimously thought that Colombia could chair the NAM for three years and can host next year's meeting of the 110 presidents.

[Arizmendi] In this case, who will preside over the meeting? The president or foreign minister?

[Sanin] The head of state and president of Colombia.

[Arizmendi] Do you not feel nostalgic that, after working to achieve this honorable designation for Colombia first, to receive the unanimous support of Latin America for Colombia's candidacy, and later to obtain the support of 110 countries, you will leave the post of foreign minister on 7 August and will not enjoy something you engineered?

[Sanin] No. As long as Colombia maintains its leadership and is able to coordinate the NAM forum, I will be very satisfied. This will give Colombia an opportunity to have greater negotiating and coordinating ability to deepen ties with these 110 countries. This is very important for our country, and we are very satisfied with the recognition of President Gaviria's policies.

[Arizmendi] Mrs. Foreign Minister, isn't NAM an organization that has lost importance in recent years? Isn't it a bureaucratic organization?

[Sanin] That is not true. [words indistinct] obviously had a reason to exist when the Cold War was still going on and the world was bipolar, but today problems of developing countries are not yet over. This makes it necessary to have a policy or strategy to counter these problems. This will permit us to have the opportunity to negotiate problems at the United Nations. The NAM is very much heeded at the UN Security Council.

A great deal of progress has been made in the area of disarmament thanks to the independence of countries that had colonization problems. A lot has been done in the area of the environment. Important positions were negotiated during the [UN] Earth Summit. [words indistinct] prevented taxing developing countries.

Regarding human rights, we must establish important positions to prevent this issue from being politicized. In other words, we will be able to improve the negotiating capacity of developing countries in all areas and among ourselves.

[Arizmendi] You have led President Cesar Gaviria to the post of OAS secretary general, and you have also led Colombia to the presidency of NAM for the next three years. With this political success, why didn't you run for the presidency of the Republic?

[Sanin] [sighs] My work is here at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, but I also want to tell you these accomplishments are not mine. They belong to Colombia and its policies, as well as to the seriousness of our country. I thank you very much for your words, but it was not time for me to run for president.

[Arizmendi] This was not the moment, but does that mean the right moment may come later?

[Sanin] One never knows.

[Arizmendi] You are not upset with our question?

[Sanin] Well, I don't think anybody would be upset with such a question.

[Arizmendi] Could you give this idea some thought and perhaps run for president within four years?

[Sanin] I am now fulfilling my duty to work for Colombia, and this is a good job and a good campaign. [laughs]

[Arizmendi] A few days ago we interviewed Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano on our program "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast. We also did so on our television program "Face to Face." He told us that you were virtually the only Colombian who can afford to be taken to the presidency in the next government. He said that if you choose to, you could remain in the Foreign Ministry, but that you could perfectly well go to the Colombian Embassy in Washington, to the United Nations or to any Colombian diplomatic mission abroad. Which of all those posts would you like? Would you like to remain as the head of the Foreign Ministry?

[Sanin] Look Dario, I have been so busy in the Colombian Foreign Ministry that I really have not had a chance to think about 7 August. We have the upcoming Ibero-American Summit, and we have to coordinate details on the environment. We have to prepare the commission for the transition of power to the next government. I truly have not had time to think of anything else.

[Arizmendi] Mrs. Minister, what is there left for you to round out Colombia's international endeavors?

[Sanin] We are reaching agreements with several countries. We are going to sign some agreements with (?China). We have to do well in the Ibero-American Summit, which 21 chiefs of state and the king and queen of Spain will attend. We are going to hold important talks on the Ibero-American community. We have to further integrate Latin America. We have to sign the free trade agreements on the Caribbean and Central America. The foreign trade minister is working arduously in that direction. We are rounding out our mission and are working to finish it.

[Arizmendi] Mrs. Minister, the women's conference will be held in Beijing next year. This coming Tuesday, 7 June, the president will officially launch Colombia's programs and preparations with a view to that summit. As foreign minister and as a woman, what role have you had or will you have in this important world event?

[Sanin] I am inside the vehicle and cannot hear your question well, would you mind repeating it?

[Arizmendi] Mrs. Minister, I am asking you about the international women's conference that will be held next year in Beijing and whose official acts will be launched this coming 7 June by the president of the Republic. As a foreign minister and as a woman, what will be your participation in this event?

[Sanin] I beg your pardon, but I am inside a vehicle passing through a street where there is a lot of interference. As soon as I arrive in my office, we can talk because I can't hear a thing.

[Arizmendi] Do you hear me, Mrs. Minister?

[Sanin] No, I'm sorry, I have interference. We'll talk again as soon as I get to the office.

Possible Increase in EC Tariff Benefits Noted

PA0506000794 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Report by J. Orlando Gomez from the "Midday Television Newscast"]

[Text] Despite Colombia's poor image in the realm of human rights violations, it is very possible that the EC countries will increase its tariff benefits. Because of the huge sacrifices Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru have made in blood and money in the struggle against drug trafficking, the EC four years ago established a system that allows these Latin American countries' products to enter the 12 EC countries without paying tariffs or taxes. Thanks to this measure, a considerable amount of Colombian exports are entering the old continent without problems. EC Ambassador Jose Luis Benito Prior discussed the issue.

[Begin Benito Prior recording] This measure covers over 90 percent of Colombia's exports, all industrial products, and a long list of farm products. Therefore, Colombia can congratulate itself for this positive atmosphere. [end recording]

Thanks to the good work of these countries in the struggle against drug trafficking, these preferential tariffs may be extended for another 10 years.

[Begin Benito Prior recording] In Europe we appreciate all the efforts that Colombia and other Latin American countries are making in this struggle. Much must still be done, and together we must try to foster a spirit of cooperation. [end recording]

These favorable conditions and terms will allow Colombia's most competitive products to establish roots on the old continent within a few years.

Military Plans Weapons Purchases

PA0606000994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] Within the next few months the Army will change all of its weapons. The decision is part of a technological updating process that will provide the Armed Forces with more weapons to fight the guerrillas.

Among the weapons that will be changed are the estimated 100,000 rifles currently owned by the military; the same amount of rifles will be purchased. The new 5.56 mm rifles will be of the same brand and will have the same characteristics as the U.S.-made M-16 and Israeli-made Galil rifles currently used in Colombia. Each weapon will cost between $1,500 and $3,000. This means that the investment being considered could cost 200 billion pesos.

INDUMIL [State Military Industry Enterprise], which produces ammunition and weapons in Colombia, is conducting the technical and economic evaluation. Although the study is well under way, it may still last several months. In the United States, it took a year to make a similar decision.

The new Armed Forces rifles have been characterized as merciful. They were invented to wound instead of kill in combat. According to experts, they are more detrimental to the enemy, because they immobilize not only the wounded soldier but also those who come to his aid. These weapons are also lighter, which makes them more maneuverable, and they allow quicker troop deployment and facilitate the transportation of larger amounts of ammunition. They also reduce risks when there are incidents at checkpoints and during urban patrols.

Israel's Peres Interviewed on Peace Process

PA0406025594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 31 May 94 p 12A

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Miriam Wasserman and Victor Manuel Vargas in Santa Fe de Bogota; date not given]

[Text] [EL TIEMPO] The road to peace to which Israel and the PLO are committed is filled with uncertainties for the near future. Great courage is required. Has this effort yielded positive results?

[Peres] First, an uncertain peace is better than the certainty of war. If we cannot attain peace, we will have no uncertainties. I think we will continue to pay the price of peace before we can see its fruits. Nevertheless, we will not change our minds because of this fact. We will continue with the process.

[EL TIEMPO] What are the largest obstacles to peace at this time?

[Peres] There are different obstacles in different countries. We have to see how the Palestinians will get organized in Gaza and Jericho. Then we will continue to negotiate the various stages that follow in the process—in other words, the expansion of their administration to five or six specific areas and the extension of autonomy to other territories.

The Syrians, on the other hand, want to conduct the negotiations in a very strange manner. They want the talks to be held behind closed doors and in a limited manner. If you want to normalize relations, you have to normalize the negotiations, because otherwise the people will not believe you are serious. I do not think Syria is doing things properly. Israel wants negotiations with Syria to be more open, at the ministerial level, and on a bilateral basis. We would like to negotiate on all issues—that is, on peace, on security, and on the withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Syrian president, however, wants us to say we will return the entire territory first, and then we can sit down to negotiate. I do not think this will happen.

With the Jordanians, we have already started. Our working relations with them are much better. I think it is important not only to resolve past problems and conflicts between us and the other countries of the region, but also to construct a new Middle East. If a new Middle East is not constructed, peace will not be secured.

[EL TIEMPO] Will this new Middle East be constructed based on a "land for peace" policy?

[Peres] You see, "relations for peace" are much more important than "land for peace." The problem of land can be settled, but, if we do not have good relations, the true problem will not have been resolved. Therefore, what we have to change is the climate in the Middle East.

[EL TIEMPO] Since we are talking about the climate, do you not consider it worrisome that the joy that was felt after the Declaration of Principles was signed in Washington in September has disappeared in Israel?

[Peres] I think that is not very important, because our government was elected for four years. In other words, it would not be wise for the government to revise its decisions every day. The government is not like a hospital, where a patient's temperature is taken every morning, a certain measure is taken to correct this, and the results are assessed at the end of the day.

[EL TIEMPO] Two Israeli soldiers were murdered recently in the Gaza Strip. What would occur if such things begin to occur frequently? Will Israel occupy the territories again?

[Peres] I am not going to answer that question, because I do not want to leave the impression we left Gaza to return there at a later date.

We are not going to return to Gaza.

What we are going to do is to demand that the Palestinians take all necessary measures to apprehend and punish those responsible for the crime.

[EL TIEMPO] Some analysts believe this was not the right time to sign a peace agreement because the PLO is not ready to exercise leadership over the occupied territories. What do you think?

[Peres] I think the analysts should be replaced. Most analysts did not predict anything of that which has taken place so far. I do not know of one analyst who knew Gorbachev would end communism, or that Mandela would make peace with De Klerk.

I do not know of any analyst who knew we would take a first step toward peace in terms of Gaza and Jericho. I can only cite the man who was my leader, Ben Gurion, who said all experts are experts on things that have already happened; we do not have experts on what the future holds.

[EL TIEMPO] Why is there so much difficulty with the election of the 24 members of the interim Palestinian Government?

[Peres] When you have appointments instead of elections, you have a problem. Every time you appoint one person, you make 10 others unhappy. I think Arafat wanted to please many groups, and this is difficult to do. The PLO is a coalition of many opposing factions.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you consider this a serious problem for Israel?

[Peres] We cannot decide who our counterparts should be, just as we cannot choose our parents. Nevertheless, what we can indeed decide is the kind of relationship we want to maintain with them. What we are trying to do is to build a new relationship.

[EL TIEMPO] Do you not think that relocating Israeli settlers now living in the occupied territories might contribute to peace?

[Peres] No. The best thing for peace would be for relations to improve between Jewish settlers and the Palestinians. If there are 400 Israeli settlers and 100,000 Palestinians in Hebron, what is the problem?

But some of these settlers are there because they think these territories belong to Israel and...

Thinking is not dangerous. The situation only becomes dangerous when you fire your gun.

[EL TIEMPO] But they are armed.

[Peres] We are going to adopt measures to seize their weapons, but we are not going to take measures against their dreams. We live in a democracy, and, in turn, they have the right to dream.

[EL TIEMPO] What specific measures will be taken to disarm Israeli settlers?

[Peres] We will explain to them that we are not going to allow force to define our relationship with the Arabs.

[EL TIEMPO] What role does the economy play in the future of peace?

[Peres] Peace is an economic measure. If there is no peace, a lot of money will be wasted in war. In the past 10 years, we have wasted $1 billion in weapons. With this money, we could have changed the Middle East. Consequently, making peace will contribute greatly to improving the economy.

[EL TIEMPO] What can and must the international community do to ensure and promote this process?

[Peres] The international community must support peace. We are trying to help Palestinians raise the necessary money to build their own administration and their own police.

The world must take part not only in peacekeeping missions but also in peacemaking missions.

For instance, what is taking place in Rwanda is terrible. There is a radio station that each morning calls on people to murder children, and no one has bombed that station. This is incredible. They say, "kill children" and you will end the problem. We are saying: Let's kill the problem in order that children can live.

[EL TIEMPO] What form does Israel ultimately want the territories to assume?

[Peres] We have already spoken about the idea of a common market. Where there is a clear majority, the government should be under the auspices of that majority, but no people should dominate another. For the Palestinians, the best solution would be the creation of a Jordanian-Palestinian federation.

[EL TIEMPO] What do the Jordanians think of this?

[Peres] I think both the Jordanians and the Palestinians would be in favor of a federation, but I am not sure they agree on who should head it.

[EL TIEMPO] In an article for NEWSWEEK, Henry Kissinger said the moment Arafat stood next to Rabin at the White House Rose Garden (during the signing ceremony for the Declaration of Principles) the Palestinian state became an inevitability. What is your opinion?

[Peres] I believe he is a very wise man, but we do not agree.

[EL TIEMPO] Why is Israel opposed to a Palestinian state?

[Peres] If you have a Jordanian state and a Palestinian state, the conflict would worsen. The majority of Jordanians are Palestinians, and the majority of the Palestinians have Jordanian passports. It is an artificial division. If you have a problem, you must find one solution, not two. If you have two solutions, then you are creating another problem.

The land that Israel returns must remain demilitarized. A Jordanian-Palestinian federation would guarantee this in part of the territory, but if we have two states, an arms buildup would immediately begin and we would have to pay the price of this.

[EL TIEMPO] During your entire life, and especially since Israel was created, you have been in a leadership position and have undoubtedly left your mark on history. How and for what would you like to be remembered?

[Peres] For saving the lives of five or 10 children. That is the most important thing.

[EL TIEMPO] What can the Colombian people learn of the peace process you are conducting?

[Perez] I believe that the most important thing is to know that there are no complex situations but, instead, complex people, and the people can overcome such complexities if they take the situation into their own hands. We must look toward the future and not toward the past.

Ecuador

Red Sun Reaches Peace Accord with Government

PA0306183494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0119 GMT 2 Jun 94

[Text] Quito, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Ecuadoran "Red Sun" armed movement announced today that it reached a "peace agreement" with the Ecuadoran Government, which will permit it to surrender its weapons and quit subversive activities.

Ramiro Celi Garces, foremost leader of the subversive group, admitted at the National Defense Ministry the movement's "military defeat" and announced it will join the peaceful democratic struggle. He recognized the mistake of acting with weapons when violence is not favorable "at this historic moment" and he denied the group had engaged in terrorism or kidnappings.

Celi Garces said the struggle of the "Red Sun" was directed at ending the injustices of "a totally atomized society" and the misfortunes of people subject to an unconscientious government.

Our organization "has deemed it necessary to stop using weapons as an alternative" and "to proclaim our will to secure a peace agreement," he stated.

The proposal by the Red Sun and Inti Puka [red sun in Quechua] is based on commitments that establish eliminating the organization, quitting clandestine activities, surrendering weapons to the Army, and rejoining the country's democratic activities.

In exchange the group asks the government "as a demonstration of its will to achieve peace to redefine its social and economic policies" in order to improve the living conditions of the people."

Inti Puka also requests the government to release of one of its leaders and the to end all police and military control of the demobilized militants of the "Red Sun Communist Party," as Celi Garces calls it.

Defense Minister Jose Gallardo expressed his satisfaction with the decision of the group, which has been linked to the Peruvian Shining Path because of its actions and slogans, although no connection has ever been proven.

Gallardo said the Red Sun's decision to adopt the path of peace represents a victory for peace-loving Ecuadorans.

The group had been active in Ecuador for three years and had been blamed for several dynamite attacks against public offices which only caused material damages, including damage to an electricity tower of the Papallactal potable water plant last May.

Leaders Celi Garces and Patricio Alban Sanchez, representing the demobilized members whose number is not known, surrendered their weapons to Gallardo at the Defense Ministry. Sophisticated weapons were exhibited at a sumptuous ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by the military high command, members of the cabinet, representatives of human rights, and relatives of those laying down their weapons.

Political analysts noted that the surrender of weapons has been the result of intense investigations and Armed Forces surveillance of the movement's activities.

A 19-year-old student, who was captured in August 1993 for being a member of the Red Sun, denied that the group has any connection with any Ecuadoran political party, as local media have reported.

The last subversive group recognized in Ecuador was the so-called "Alfaro Lives, Dammit" which in 1990 dissolved itself upon signing a peace accord with the Social Democratic government of Rodrigo Borja (1988-92).

Media, Politicians Skeptical of Rebel Surrender

PA0306233994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1837 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Quito, 3 Jun (EFE)—The press and an Ecuadoran Socialist deputy expressed today their doubts about the real existence and importance of the "Red Sun" ("Puka Inti" in Quechua) Maoist group, which without prior notice decided on Thursday to surrender its weapons to the Armed Forces in a surprising capitulation ceremony.

Without stating it was all a farce but suggesting that the group, allegedly linked to Peru's "Shining Path," was perhaps formed by members of state security, the Ecuadoran press reported today on the ceremony without commenting on or addressing the issue in its editorials.

"Many doubts emerged following the surprising surrender of weapons, which seemed to have been withdrawn from the armory, for they don't have scratches or stains. Everything has taken place so quickly that there are doubts about the veracity of the ceremony and the true involvement of 'Red Sun' leaders in acts of war," the newspaper EXPRESO said.

"Red Sun: debut and farewell," was the headline of the newspaper "HOY," while "EL UNIVERSO" recalled that the group "appeared on the national scene three years ago with various acts of urban violence without any repercussion." The only actions staged by the group have been the hurling of dynamite explosives at public buildings and some parties offices, causing minor damage and no casualties. In addition, they painted slogans on walls calling for the elimination of popular organizations' leaders, whom they accused of treason, and others, stating: "Be patriotic, kill an Indian."

During the ceremony, "Red Sun" Secretary General Ramiro Celi congratulated the Armed Forces' military investigative work that defeated his group, denied responsibility for the attacks or the slogans on walls, and thanked among others, Socialist Deputy Diego Delgado for his contribution to the peace process.

Hours before the ceremony and at the request of relatives of "Red Sun" members, Delgado denounced before the press the arrest and disappearance of these members. Nevertheless, the deputy stated today that "the whole thing seems very strange, a real trick to give the impression that supposedly an alleged political-military organization had repented without ever firing a single shot, not meaning that it would have been better otherwise."

"All of this calls for deep reflection, and personally I am not convinced. Their social and political origin, their ideological and practical beliefs, and a host of other aspects are completely foreign to guerrilla movements that have existed elsewhere," Delgado repeated. Delgado then asked: "Does 'Red Sun' exist or did it ever exist as an organization of such a size, which certain media presented in order to project a peaceful image by other interests?"

An "Ecuavisa" commentator agreed with Delgado and was also of the opinion that "there are questions that remain in the air that raise doubts whether in fact the group really existed."

Paraguay

Opposition Leaders Suspend Talks With Government

PY0306191794 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Jun 94 pp 8, 9

[Excerpts] Opposition leaders yesterday decided to suspend the talks they are holding with the government under the governability pact. The opposition decided to withdraw from the pact because the Colorado Party has filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional a law that prevents military and police officers on active duty from being members of political parties.

The decision to withdraw from the talks was announced yesterday by Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA]; by Miguel Angel Montaner, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]; and by Victor Sanchez Villagra, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF].

The opposition leaders noted that they were withdrawing from the interparty board until the respective executive boards of their parties decide the course of action to be taken. They will have to decide whether to withdraw once and for all from the interparty talks because the Colorado Party failed to honor its promise to request the annulment of Article 2, not of the entire law. [passage omitted]

The PLRA, PDC, and PRF members are already discussing the possibility of forming a united opposition front to decisively support the transition process to democracy. They believe President Wasmosy is now lacking adequate political support because even the Colorado Party executive board has made a proposal that contradicts the president's decision. [passage omitted]

The PRF yesterday issued an official communique to state its position on the governability pact. The PRF announces that it is withdrawing its representatives from the interparty board in protest over the Colorado Party petition that the law temporarily suspending the party memberships of military and police officers on active duty be declared unconstitutional.

The communique adds that the PRF categorically rejects the duplicity observed in the Colorado party's political actions because, on the one hand, it committed itself to institutionalizing the Armed Forces and the Police, but on the other, it is revealing its regressive goal of attempting to revive the nefarious practice of identifying the party with the state and with the Armed Forces, a concept which is absolutely totalitarian and which we thought had been eradicated.

Senate Approves Protocol on Illegal Governments

PY0306132294 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p 6

[Excerpt] The Senate this morning approved the Washington protocol which establishes sanctions against governments installed through illegal means. The protocol has been adopted by the foreign ministers of OAS country members on behalf of their governments.

The document sent by the executive branch to the Senate on 13 May refers to a modification to the OAS charter. It adds rules to protect democratically elected administrations and sanctions against those that illegally oust their governors.

The senators unanimously approved the protocol. Senator Carlos Alberto Gonzalez, head of the Foreign Affairs Committee, later emphasized its importance.

One sanction contemplated in the document states that illegal administrations cannot participate in OAS meetings.

The Senate also agreed to the executive branch appointment of Ruben Bareiro Saguier as plenipotentiary ambassador to France. [passage omitted]

Integration Minister Tenders Resignation

PY0306144694 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Jun 94 p 7

[Excerpt] Integration Minister Atilio R. Fernandez resigned yesterday. He wants to run for ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] executive board president. In a note delivered to President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at the Presidential Palace, Fernandez says the Colorado Party "now must strongly react to constant attacks from the anti-Colorado movement which has become installed in all segments of society, even infiltrating the ANR family." [passage omitted]

Peru

Infighting Within Shining Path Evaluated

PY0306191094 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 May 94 pp 15-17

[Article by Angel Paez]

[Text] A new Shining Path [SL] slogan is starting to appear on poor neighborhoods' walls: "An imprisoned Maoist is a dead Maoist."

This is the war cry of subversives who are against the "new and great definition" imparted from prison by Abimael Guzman Reinoso: "To struggle for the achievement of a Peace Accord."

This is a clash between the "Leftist Annihilation Line (LLI)" headed by Oscar Ramirez Durand, who is supported by the "cadres" (highly trained militants) who are not in prison, and the "Right-Wing Opportunist Line" (LOD), headed by Guzman, who is supported by the majority of SL members in prison.

LOD members were the first to propose an end to the armed struggle in view of the severe blows sustained by the party leadership and of the need to end the bloodbath.

Guzman has decided to hold a second SL congress so the "new and great decision" will be adopted by all combatants to thus recover party authority and avoid internal party divisions.

Ramirez Durand, however, has not remained idle.

In February, LLI members were able to get the SL Central Committee to hold a meeting in Ayacucho. They were not only able to restructure the main party leadership organization with acting members elected during the first congress in 1988 but also ousted Guzman and all of his close advisers from the organization by adopting the following agreements:

A) Neither the war nor the party can be led from prison because combatants behind bars are inoperative and disconnected from reality. This is the reason for adopting the slogan: "An imprisoned Maoist is a dead Maoist."

B) Those who favor a peace agreement are violating basic Marxist-Leninist-Maoist principles, particularly the "Gonzalo Thought" principles, and, therefore, isolating themselves and, by their own initiative, deserting the party.

They also reasserted an agreement already approved during two other previous high-ranking meetings (Central Committee "working sessions" of a "resolutory nature" in December 1992 and August 1993) that obviously were not attended by Guzman: to continue "the people's war."

Public attention is again centered on those SL members out of prison headed by Ramirez Durand, "Comrade Feliciano," because of recent terrorist actions (car bombs, an "armed stoppage," an attack on a section of the oil pipeline, and armed propaganda).

Since the disclosure of Guzman's letters to President Alberto Fujimori and details on the peace agreement negotiations, the government has only disclosed details on the movements of Guzman's faction and its leaders but has concealed the reactions of Maoists out of prison regarding the conduct of their "leadership and authority."

It is now known that LLI members, also known by their LOD enemies as "traitors" and "military goons," did not resign themselves to accepting Guzman's capitulation. They allege that the videos are a sham, the letters false, and the agreement a hoax with the ultimate objective of assassinating "President Gonzalo" and destroying the armed struggle. With this excuse, they proceeded to restructure the entire party apparatus. They have filled vacant posts left by their leaders and dead or imprisoned "cadres" and resumed the implementation of plans approved by Guzman at the Third Central Committee Plenum meeting in August 1992, just a few weeks before his arrest.

That is why the government strategy of strengthening the leadership of Guzman and the arrested Central Committee members and presenting them as the real SL representatives (recent intelligence reports recommend breaking the isolation of Guzman and his aides, allowing them to visit other inmates or vice versa to allow them to intensify their propaganda campaign to promote a split in the SL organization) will have to be reconsidered given that the organization has begun to be represented by the LLI.

To begin with, the government must resume the talks, which have been paralyzed for the past seven months according to LOD leaflets. Guzman needs new arguments to attract a new public—the "glorious combat trenches" and the inoperative militants currently have very little or no influence on the course of the war—because the same speech for imprisoned SL members and those who are operational outside has not yielded results.

Statements like "a golden page was turned with the people's war; we are now beginning a stage of bloodless war that means politics without bloodshed; a bloody war is politics with bloodshed," can affect an SL member burdened by the humiliating prospect of being able to enjoy sunlight for only 30 minutes a day for the rest of his life. Such statements do not have the same effect on a "military commander" who, for example, conducts a column and has seen his subordinates fall precisely in the name of the "people's war" that, according to Guzman's new position, does not mean "giving up or abandoning the revolution but to continue fighting our new conditions." They also will have no effect on an Upper Huallaga column that lives from the "protection money" it charges drug traffickers.

The deadlock of the talks between the government representatives and the imprisoned SL spokesmen can be explained by the conditions demanded by the SL, which have annoyed President Fujimori, who said the only result he expects from the agreement is "unconditional surrender."

LA REPUBLICA had access to the documents the SL members circulate inside the prisons, which contain 15 points divided into four sections as an "introduction" and 11 other points listed as "basic proposals."

These "guidelines for basic documents," that is, the Maoists' expectations of the benefits they expect to obtain after laying down their weapons, do not correspond at all to an "unconditional surrender."

By granting the following concessions: "To cease the people's war that began on 17 May 1980 in its four wartime expressions of guerrilla actions (selective annihilation, sabotage, political agitation, and armed propaganda and guerrilla warfare), to self-dissolve the People's Guerrilla Army, to destroy their weapons and combat means, and also to dissolve the Popular and Grass-Roots Committees that support the RPND [Republica Popular de Nueva Democracia—New Democracy People's Republic]," Guzman intends to obtain:

A) the end of antisubversive operations by security forces;

B) the release of all the men and women accused or sentenced for terrorist actions and the improvement of the prison conditions as long as the release process lasts;

C) ending all trials for terrorist crimes; the opening of new court proceedings; and the nullification of all subpoenas and arrest warrants submitted against combatants, collaborators, and sympathizers both in Peru and abroad;

D) ending the government campaign "conducted in the country and abroad against the people's war, the party, and its members and sympathizers";

E) reinstating the legal status of SL members, including those living abroad;

F) returning the SL "museum" seized from Abimael Guzman in 1990, including the video in which he is seen dancing a Greek dance and the books from his personal library;

G) allowing an "honorable" burial for Augusta La Torre Carrasco, "Comrade Norah," whose body currently is buried in a secret tomb;

H) promulgating a general amnesty law "that will reconcile the nation, without victors or vanquished, without reprisals or shame";

Pardoning all SL members, releasing them from jail, and letting them go free is not exactly what the government had in mind with Guzman's surrender, particularly because he does not believe this agreement is tantamount to a defeat or a surrender but "a period between an end of a stage in the International Proletariat Revolution and the future Great Wave itself. This justifies the general political withdrawal. We have started to manage the general military withdrawal as a result of the general political withdrawal, which is complex and difficult but necessary to develop other forms of struggle under new conditions."

Guzman and his followers simply believe that the people's war will continue but under different forms of struggle. These new forms of struggle will establish the conditions for the advent of that "future Great Wave."

At the other extreme there are Ramirez Durand and his people, who reasserted their leadership at the February Central Committee meeting, during which they achieved several agreements to guarantee the armed struggle's continuation. Some of them are: "To struggle to impose Maoism as the new, third, and superior stage of Marxism; to tenaciously combat imperialism, revisionism, and international reactionary movements; to reassert the principle of revolutionary violence as the universal law achieved during the people's war; to work among the masses in and for the people's war; to struggle to vindicate power; to incorporate the masses in the people's war; (and to organize) the arming of the masses."

The 14 years of armed struggle, therefore, are taking by surprise an organization whose combatants out of prison have started the reorganization of their party leadership and continues to implement a guerrilla campaign interrupted in view of the arrests that were made and that has isolated their "prisoners of war" (including Guzman and its Central Committee). They are considered nonoperational cadres unable to lead the party and the war. In view of this, the SL radical group has been able to describe the peace agreement as a desperate proposal made by combatants who find themselves pressured by the prospects of life imprisonment or, in the best of cases, who will be in jail for at least many decades.

Everything indicates that the government will continue to strengthen Guzman's authority and undermine Ramirez Durand's and his real power over the combatants out of prison. Under these circumstances, "Feliciano" will increase the levels of violence to obtain more attention and recover the war initiative. From now on, should antiterrorist forces ask whether or not they support the peace agreement when they arrest SL members? If they say they support it, should they let them go free? This is one of the several contradictions of the new course of the war. Before, a jailed Maoist was a key figure in the armed struggle, a fortunate member of a "luminous combat trench." Nowadays, to be jailed is tantamount to being buried alive. A jailed Maoist is the same as a dead Maoist. The dead have little or no influence on the war's course.

Ω Unemployment, Poverty in 1995 Election

94P20820A

[Editorial Report] The monthly PERU ECONOMICO [PE], devoting its April issue to employment, said that employment policy will be the central issue in the 1995 presidential campaign, "no matter who the candidates are." The general public calls unemployment the greatest problem facing the nation today and is looking for a leader with solutions, according to PE. Apoyo-owned PE speculated that unemployment ranks higher than poverty because the solution to poverty is associated in the public mind with social welfare programs. Peruvians today "prefer a job with which to resolve the economic problems rather than a handout." In addition to the primary focus on unemployment, the composition of the presidential ticket will be "much more important" than in the past. (In 1990 outsider candidate Alberto Fujimori won the presidency on the strength of his antipolitics stance and his commitment to restore civil order by defeating the Shining Path [SL] and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.) PERU ECONOMICO predicted that the candidates will run short campaigns "in order to avoid overexposure."

Stymied Jobs Creation

The labor reforms of recent years, which were intended to improve competitiveness by reducing wage regulations and doing away with collective bargaining have not led to any noticeable increase in jobs. The reforms also caused a drastic downsizing in the public sector: from 633,349 government employees in 1990 to 338,428 in 1993. Nor is the export sector expected to generate any significant increase in jobs or wages in the future, according to the April PERU ECONOMICO. The situation is further exacerbated by the very large numbers of young people entering the job market each year.

The labor unions have lost much of their clout and many of their members as the reforms have encouraged individual contracting, short-term employment, and modifications in wage regulations with a system for compulsory saving.

The establishment of various mechanisms to reduce the cost of opening up new jobs, such as private pension funds and wage reform, has not gone smoothly and the program to finance housing (FOVI) has been suspended. Nor is there a timetable for starting up private health organizations.

Two Markets

According to the same issue of PERU ECONOMICO, creating more flexible employer/employee relations and other "modernization" attempts are only a partial solution to unemployment and lack of competitiveness because the market has become divided into two disparate segments: a formal market where the workers are protected by labor laws and an informal market with no protection. There are great differences in qualifications, productivity, and wages in the two markets. In the informal market there is not much chance of full-time employment or upward mobility, nor is there any investment in human resources.

An expert consulted by PERU ECON0MICO is quoted as saying that the government's strategy to modernize the labor market will only affect the workers in "the most modern sector." They would benefit from compulsory savings programs which will in turn give them access to investment and credit. In the traditional market, improvements could only occur through increased foreign and domestic capital. The current reform does not ensure that the unemployed or those in low-paying jobs will benefit from economic growth. For that to happen there would have to be a skills-training policy and incentives to invest in human resources.

Employment Numbers

PERU ECONOMTCO estimates that in metropolitan Lima the underemployed (earning $135 per month) constitute 53 percent, and those adequately employed ($341 per month) constitute 38 percent of the economically active population. The Lima sectors with the greatest unemployment were mining (16 percent) and construction (13 percent). Sectors providing the most adequate employment were "nonpersonal services" (15 percent) and commerce (14 percent). Age did not appear to be a factor.

Poverty Rising

The monthly PERUPAZ in its April issue decries the Fujimori government's failure to address the serious problem of poverty and says that in spite of the economic successes the government claims, its economic policy impedes any improvement in the quality of life for most Peruvians. There is a disconnect, the monthly contends, between Fujimori's economic policy and the country's social needs. In 1992 the GNP dropped by 5 percent from the preceding year to its lowest level in 15 years.

Studies by the Institute for Statistics and Data [INEI] show "critical poverty" to have reached 53 percent of the population by 1991, while "extreme poverty" rose to 21 percent.

Urban Poverty

PERUPAZ says that "contrary to earlier decades," poverty now exists also in the urban areas, and in particular in Lima, where a full one-third of those in critical poverty live.

Thirty-three percent of the economically active population of Peru live in Lima. In 1989-1990 salaries and wages shrank by 13 and 16.8 percent respectively. The downhill trend continued for the period 1990-1992: The number of underemployed went from 86.4 to 88.1 percent of the population and the number of unemployed from 8.3 to 10 percent.

Nationally, underemployment decreased slightly—from 79 to 76 percent in 1991-1992, while unemployment went from 5.9 to 9.9 percent.

Rural Poverty

The majority of the poor live in the rural and mountain areas of the country where income is extremely low and there is rarely any access to basic health services, education, adequate nutrition, and sanitation.

The INEI study of 1991 showed that in the rural areas of the Sierra only 43 percent of the homes had drinking water (inside or outside), and only 14 percent had sewage. Thirty-one percent of the homes had electricity.

Diseases

Diseases previously considered under control have reemerged: malaria, tuberculosis, cholera, facial ulcers. Mortality rates for children under the age of five did decline from 97 per thousand in 1978 to 76 per thousand in 1991 according to INEI, but Peru continues to have one of the highest infant mortality rates in South America.

Governability Questioned

PERUPAZ concludes that the government has failed to address the problems of the poor, "who have become the majority." The periodical calls for a vigorous social policy and an economic policy congruent with the social necessities, saying that a key factor will be stimulating agricultural production. PERUPAZ warns that if the social issue is not addressed, it is "not optimistic about the outlook for governable conditions in Peru."

Steady Trend

Opinion polls over the past several months done by Apoyo, Imasen, etc., have consistently shown former UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar leading President Alberto Fujimori in a two-way race, with the former enjoying greater support in the country's interior. The polls also consistently show that Fujimori would have a clear lead over the other frequently mentioned potential candidates, Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont, former President Fernando Belaunde Terry, and former Arequipa Mayor Luis Caceres (to date, only Belmont has declared his candidacy).

Vice Presidential Factor

In its April issue PERU ECONOMICO says the vice presidential candidates will be a significant factor: National Police Inspector General Antonio Ketin Vidal "could bring a lot of votes." (Vidal is credited with the October 1992 capture of SL founder and leader Abimael Guzman.) PE does not rule out a surprise candidate, much like Fujimori in 1990, and notes that there are other potential candidates, waiting for a "propitious opportunity," prominent among them former Prime Minister Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller.

Fujimori Versus de Cuellar

PERU ECONOMICO concurs with the widely held view that Perez de Cuellar's strength is his international stature and his weakness is his decades-long absence from Peru. PE quotes an unnamed "leading" politician with "many victories" as saying "this product [de Cuellar] is not particularly marketable in the sierra."

Fujimori's strength, successfully controlling subversion and inflation, puts him in a "paradoxical situation" in that the public sees him as a successful president, but not as a good candidate. The country today has a sense of order; two years ago "no one would have predicted that Shining Path would today be in the process of disappearing," PE asserts.

Fujimori projects an authoritarian image and is perceived as lacking any vision "beyond establishing order," according to PE, which adds that the "general requirement" for more peaceful times will be a leader who carries on a dialogue and is a consensus builder. According to a poll published in the Apoyo-owned weekly 24 April SEMANA ECONOMICA, 64 percent of the interviewees believe the next president should be a consensus builder and only 29 percent want an authoritarian president. The number of respondents in the poll, conducted in Lima and "eight other cities" was not given.

April Apoyo Polls

The April Apoyo polls published in PERU ECONOMICO showed that a majority thought Fujimori's "self-coup" of April 1992 had led to an improvement in the areas of terrorism, inflation, corruption, and narcotics trafficking. A majority believed that the nation's main problems are unemployment, poverty, nutrition, education, and cost of living. The poll was conducted in Lima and eight provincial capitals across socioeconomic groups. The number of respondents was not given.

Intelligence Service Poll

According to the weekly SI [2-8 May] citing unnamed "sources," President Fujimori ordered the National Intelligence Service [SIN] to conduct a poll to check whether the private-sector opinion pollsters' figures on the president's reelectability were correct.

The findings of the SIN: Fujimori enjoyed a 72-percent popularity rate ("6-8 percent more" than in the other polls); in a two-way race, Fujimori would get 55 percent over de Cuellar's 35 percent; in a two-way race against Belmont, Fujimori would get 52 percent to Belmont's 38. If the two vice presidential candidates were Congressional President Jaime Yoshiyama and Congressional Vice President Victor Joy Way (both of Asian descent) only 3 percent would vote for the three-person ticket while 90 percent would not, reputedly saying "that's a lot of Chinamen." Asked if there should be a woman on the ticket, 77 percent said yes, 10 percent no. The majority wanted to see the female candidate in the slot of second vice president.

SI reports that Fujimori is now looking at former Prime Minister Hurtado Miller and National Police Inspector General Ketin Vidal as vice presidential mates, but is also considering Congresswomen Martha Chavez and Luz Salgado, both of New Majority-Change '90.

According to the sources, 25 SIN officers were sent out to "all parts of Lima" to interview 1,200 people, ranging in age from 22 to 50.

President Fujimori Leaves for Japan, PRC

PY0306201494 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has left for Tokyo, where he will arrive on 5 June. During his stay, Fujimori will meet with Emperor Akihito, the Japanese prime minister, foreign minister, and other Japanese government officials.

Fujimori will stay in Tokyo until Wednesday, 8 June, when he will be awarded an honorary degree. From Tokyo, he will depart for an official visit to Beijing. During his stay in China, Fujimori he will seek a fishing agreement, considering Beijing is the main fish meal importer.

Uruguay

Lacalle Administration's Achievements Reviewed

PY0306233994 Montevideo EL OBSERVADOR ECONOMICO in Spanish 25 May 94 p 6

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] The Herraraist faction of the National Party has questioned the legitimacy of the Sanguinetti administration, which was placed in power through the 1984 elections. In a document evaluating the current administration's actions in government, the Herreraist faction characterizes this administration "as the first elected without restrictions" since the military regime.

The document points out the main achievements of the administration headed by Luis Alberto Lacalle, emphasizing the "transformations and changes in concepts, the economic and social achievements, and the most incomparable and far-reaching social work of the past few decades." The document also states that "we want neither an all-encompassing nor an absentee government."

The report, distributed among Herreraist constituents, describes the government as having "concluded the transition period that began with the 1984 elections, which were carried out with exclusions (...) The Herreraist government was the first to be elected without restrictions following the de facto regimes."

The document mentions the attitude of current administration employees, especially their "firm, prudent, and clear conduct in attaining national goals, without demagoguery or a desire for political gain; their respect for the law and the Constitution; and their search for a consensus in resolving state problems in the most important areas of national life."

The document mentions the basic actions of government. It mentions the following economic achievements: "balanced public finances; clear and reliable exchange and monetary policies; inflation is being fought against; public and private financial institutions are operating within the rules and controls that generate trust in the financial system; tax evasion and organized smuggling are being decidedly engaged; and the encouragement of productive retooling, which is being promoted by private initiative."

In the area of labor relations, the document points out that "management and workers negotiate collective agreements without the state's participation. Nevertheless, the state has greatly supported collective bargaining. The concept of productivity has been incorporated into labor relations, giving rise to new forms of relationships between companies and their employees. Private and government-owned enterprises work out far-reaching collective agreements that ensure peaceful labor relations. The official banking sector programmed and enforced the equalization of salaries with the private sector."

With regard to agriculture, the report underlines the reduction of tariffs on the importation of capital goods, the elimination of the tax on the National Silo Fund, (and) the reduction of the Imesi [specific domestic tax] levied on the sale of diesel oil, which has led to a drop in the price of this type of fuel."

The document moreover counts "the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease" and "the strengthening of agricultural research" as achievements.

It also underscores the attainments in the area of tourism, noting that "the objectives that were established have been greatly surpassed, as our 1995 goal of 2 million visitors was met in 1993. It is estimated that Uruguay will meet the target of 3 million tourists per year by the year 2000."

The tract enumerates the laws proposed by the government which it labels "revolutionary laws."

It mentions the process of the so-called "law on government-owned enterprises," including its "partial" abolishment following the plebiscite held on 13 December 1992.

The document contends that pursuant to the provisions of this law that remain in effect, the executive branch "liquidated ILPE [State Seal and Fishing Industry], and implemented the necessary mechanisms to allow private capital to buy a share in Pluna [Uruguayan National Airlines]."

It then mentions such achievements as the reform of the port administration system, the end of the insurance monopoly, and the elimination of red tape through the National Debureaucratization Program (Pronade)."

The document highlights the work done in the area of housing. The Uruguayan Mortgage Bank constructed 10,057 homes between 1990 and 1993, and granted 7,280 personal loans.

Economy Minister Denounces Candidate Promises

PY0306192094 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 25 May 94 p 1

[Text] Economy Minister Ignacio De Posadas has described the promises by presidential candidates in Bella Union about helping the economic recovery of sugar-producing farmers as "cheap and lying demagoguery."

In a clear reference to [Former President] Julio Maria Sanguinetti and [Montevideo Mayor] Tabare Vazquez, whose names he did not mention, De Posadas said the promises they made regarding subsidies "are cheap and lying demagoguery because neither of them has the slightest intention of fulfilling their promises."

Speaking on the radio program "New Time for Everyone," De Posadas said "the development of the sugar industry in Uruguay...is irreversible and those who made those promises to the Bella Union people are lying."

Sanguinetti and Tabare Vazquez visited Bella Union and questioned the government policy. De Posadas said: "One of them is new to lying. The other is older but, despite the promises he made in Bella Union to help the sugar cane producers and sugar industry, during his administration he allowed the sugar beet industry to collapse without implementing any measures. One must remember this."

Ignacio De Posadas spoke about the university conflict, saying it is being "politicized, radicalized, and lied about."

He questioned the "unrealistic terms" with which salary demands are being made. He said: "If the 6-percent wage increase authorized by Congress is granted, or if any other increase is granted, the quality of Uruguayan education will remain exactly the same."

De Posadas said that while students showed great imagination in their marches and their demonstrations, "they filed away the deans' university reform proposals, thus avoiding a discussion on their future. No effort is being made to really solve the problem."

Venezuela

Foreign Minister Affirms Acceptance of Haitians

PA0306210294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1943 GMT 3 Jun 94

[Text] Caracas, 3 Jun (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli said here today that Venezuela has agreed to receive Haitian refugees on the condition that they comprise only a small number of refugees who would remain in Venezuela temporarily, until the crisis in the Antillean nation is resolved.

The Venezuelan Government's decision was announced after an official U.S. delegation headed by Under Secretary of State Strobe Talbott asked the government of Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera to accept Haitian refugees.

The U.S. official called the Venezuelan offer "generous," and he recalled that Caracas had received the very first Haitian refugee—President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was received by Venezuela after he was overthrown in September 1991. Talbott reiterated that his government wants a "peaceful and multilateral" solution to the Haitian crisis.

Burelli told newsmen that Venezuela "has informed the United States that it will not close its doors and that it will receive a group (of Haitians), provided they are temporary refugees who will remain until the precarious situation in Haiti is resolved."

The foreign minister explained that the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington will list the number of Haitians eligible to travel to Venezuela as an "undetermined number," although "this cannot be a large number."

Catholic Church To Handle Haitian Refugees

PA0606000894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Venezuelan church will take care of Haitian refugees who have been selected by the committees that comprise the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(Gay Prim), regional representative for the UNHCR, said that the selection program for these people will cost approximately $1.5 million. It was also learned that the Haitian refugees may also choose between Canada, the United States, France, and Argentina, which are countries comprising the Friends of Haiti Group.

Amnesty International Reports on Human Rights

PA0506172194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] An Amnesty International delegation on Friday expressed concern about the deterioration of human rights in Venezuela, particularly about the questionable activities of security forces on the border with Colombia.

The delegation led by Mexican Javier Zuniga released the results of an extensive investigation of (?prisons), places of detention, and torture in general, where flaws in the judicial and public security system were evident. The mission also issued an alert about the aggressive actions of the Metropolitan Police in the application of the vagrants law and about the government's proposal to permit citizens to be armed for their defense in view of the increasing crime rate.

Minister Downplays IMF, UN, World Bank Advice

PA0506201994 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[By Vicenter Briceno from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Central Information Office Minister Guillermo Alvarez Bajares today downplayed the suggestion by (Rutillier Orloge), adviser to the IMF, the United Nations, and the World Bank, that the government freeze prices, salaries, and the exchange rate for two months.

Alvarez said the expert's recommendation contradicts the economic policy of President Rafael Caldera as well as the economic policy of private economic organizations, such as the Higher Institute of Administration Studies, Iesa, and the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce, Venamcham. The adviser participated in the forum: "Post-Sosa Plan Alternatives for Venezuela," where he said that President Caldera should adopt these measures, otherwise, the crisis will deepen and [words indistinct] stabilization in a more radical manner.

[Begin recording] [Alvarez] That is the center of the economic opposition to the current government. It seems that the man went [words indistinct] rope at the house of the hanged.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] all economic proposals of....

[Alvarez, interrupting] No, quite the opposite; it disagrees with sectors of the private economy.

[Reporter] I meant the government's economic policy.

[Alvarez] The government's economic policy is absolutely independent from what Mr. [name indistinct], the IMF, Venamcham, and Iesa might say. Absolutely different.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] break from IMF?

[Alvarez] No, perhaps a break between the IMF and Iesa and Venamcham. [end recording]

Foreign Minister on Ibero-American Summit

PA0506042594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2155 GMT 2 Jun 94

[By Hugo Sergio del Aguila]

[Text] Caracas, 2 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera will ask his colleagues, who will participate in the Fourth Ibero-American Summit, to seek urgent solutions for the demands of millions of poor people in the region, Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli said today.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said the Ibero-American Summit will be a good opportunity to find solutions "for social disorders and urban overcrowding," which have become common and serious problems for Latin America and the Caribbean. "Latin America and the Caribbean have common problems such as poverty, social disorders, and overcrowded cities because of people moving in from the countryside and becoming disorderly masses," Burelli said.

In an interview with NOTIMEX, the foreign minister said Venezuela regrets to see that the development of the last few decades has not kept man as its center of attention with his various needs, such as education, health, food, and housing.

He confirmed that President Caldera will participate in the summit in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 14 and 15 June, which will be attended by 21 heads of state and government, including Spain and Portugal, because "Venezuela will fulfill its obligation once again." It will be Caldera's first trip abroad since he was sworn in on 2 February.

According to the Venezuelan foreign minister, Ibero-American summits are of great importance far beyond their agenda points, because of the opportunities they represent and because they provide a greater awareness of reality. "The Ibero-American Summit will also be a good opportunity—without ruling out other forums such as the OAS—to clearly establish the desire to give greater importance to human development," Burelli said.

The minister said work is still being done on the summit's agenda, but noted that, in addition to the discussion of social problems, it is necessary to discuss "the Haitian tragedy, one of the most difficult topics because of its lack of solutions."

He said it is important to "exchange ideas" about the Summit of the Americas convened by U.S. President William Clinton for Miami, Florida to which all countries of the hemisphere have been invited, except Cuba. According to Burelli, the Miami meeting will be an opportunity for Latin America to talk to the United States about topics of extreme importance to the region.

Venezuela will reiterate at the forum the proposal it made during the recent Rio Group Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the urgent need to create an instrument to fight corruption, such as drug trafficking, in a drastic and expeditious manner. The foreign minister explained that the Venezuelan proposal coincides with a law being drafted by the Ecuadoran Government to curb influence-peddling and corruption. "We seek to merge both initiatives so as to propose an agile and useful instrument to stop the wave of corruption in our countries," he said. Burelli said we must take advantage of the Ibero-American Summit and other forums to insist on this serious problem because democracy "must involve proven honesty."

As for the topic of continental security, the foreign minister pointed out that, in view of the failure of the Inter-American Security System, which was dismantled following the Islas Malvinas War [Falkland Islands War], a mechanism to detect elements of destabilization and insecurity in the region is necessary. "There are sufficient reasons to undertake an Ibero-American action on the security issue. Some of these reasons include drug trafficking, guerrillas, extreme poverty, human rights violations, hunger, and injustice," he said.

According to Burelli, the agenda for the Ibero-American Summit will include topics such as culture, education, and the exchange of technology as a mechanism to free ourselves from our dependence on huge industrial centers. "We are going to seek mechanisms that can allow universities and industries at a hemispheric level to make innovations that can contribute to the reduction of the high costs of social development," Burelli said.

The minister reiterated the importance of the so-called Group of Three's (Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela) signing an agreement to create a free trade zone, which is to take place in Cartagena de Indias on 13 June. Burelli said the trade agreement, which will open up a market of 245 million potential consumers with a gross regional product of $370 billion, will greatly contribute to the regional integration process and will promote the economic development of the region.

Government Plans 1994 Gasoline Price Increase

PA0306130794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 2 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] According to Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez, the government will definitely increase the price of gasoline by the end of 1994. This measure will be implemented progressively to prevent adverse effects on the collective transportation system. According to budget estimates for 1995, this increase will reach an average of 12 bolivares.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] This statement was made by Finance Minister Sosa Rodriguez during the forum: "How to Have Confidence in Venezuela." Sosa Rodriguez confirmed that on several occasions, the need to increase the prices of hydrocarbons had been discussed. However, this increase will have to be implemented after a register of vehicles used for collective transportation is drafted so that any possible problems are averted. He added that revenues earned from such an increase have not been calculated yet.

[Sosa Rodriguez] I have said it about three or four times. We need to make a register of all vehicles used for collective transportation. I have said that eventually, the collective transportation sector must receive a subsidy so that whenever the increase is implemented—probably by the end of this year—this sector, which is widely used by the population, will not be adversely affected.

[Reporter] Sosa Rodriguez also indicated the fiscal deficit has been reduced since 12 February from 650 billion bolivares to a current 120 billion bolivares. This signifies an 80-percent reduction or the equivalent of 12 percent of the GDP. He added that after May and June, additional price increases will not be justifiable. He reiterated that estimates predict inflation figures of 50 percent for the end of 1994 and 25 percent for 1995. As for the exchange rate, he said the true rate varies between 140 and 145 bolivares.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, the country's leading labor organization hopes to learn more about the government plans in this regard since past experience shows that increases in gasoline prices are accompanied by discontent and inflation.

[Jose Beltran Vallejo, president of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] We have some documents and problems we will be submitting to the government very soon. We have told them that people cannot continue paying for the crisis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Edgar Valle Valle, chairman of the Senate Energy and Mines committee, expressed his agreement with the increase in gasoline prices.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Valle Valle believes this increase is fundamental because the oil sector cannot continue registering low profit margins.

[Valle Valle] Gasoline profit margins are negative, which means costs are greater than revenues. This situation cannot continue in an organization such as Petroven and its subsidiaries. Petroven is a business and no business exists to generate losses. In addition, Petroven has the responsibility of generating greater benefits than other companies in order to fulfill the needs of the productive and social sectors of the country. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Subcommittee Chairman Endorses Increase

PA0306235594 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Jun 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Edgar Valle Valle, chairman of the Oil, Energy, and Mine Subcommittee of the Chamber of Deputies, has endorsed the increase in gasoline prices, saying it is no longer possible to continue registering losses in the profit margin of the oil sector. Convergence Senator Luis Ramon Matos did not agree, saying this is not the opportune time to announce an increase. He has said the country is experiencing a devaluation of the bolivar, a rise in speculation, price increases, and a deterioration in the mass transit system, all of which make difficult the acceptance of this decision.

According to Consecomercio [National Council of Commerce and Services] President Berend Roosen, the reduction in the price of the dollar does not entail a reduction in products of mass consumption, because most of the raw materials have already been imported. He has added a study is being conducted on suggested top retail prices to achieve stability between merchants and customers. Roosen has recalled that due to the dollar's stability, the internal market has been restocked.

Russia Seeks To Renew Agreement With Petroven

PA0406025994 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Jun 94 p E-8

[Article by Ana Diaz]

[Text] Russia hopes shortly to renew a trilateral trade agreement with Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc. [Petroven] to supply oil to Cuba. Through this agreement Russia will supply up to 70,000 barrels of crude oil per day to the European market, and Petroven will supply an equal amount to the Caribbean island. Under a similar agreement, which was suspended in 1992, Russia and Venezuela saved $1 per barrel in freight expenses.

Russia supplied Ural crude to the Ruhr Oel refinery system, a Veba Oel and Petroven company, in Germany, while Petroven supplied Cuba with reconstituted crude. Vitali Zeleakin, president of the Committee for Economic Reform of the Russian Federation Council, and Vladimir Turdenev, Russian Foreign Ministry director for Central and South America, said that only a few technical aspects remain to be resolved before deliveries to Europe and Cuba can resume. The two officials said that, far from reflecting ideological positions, this is basically a trade agreement beneficial to the two parties. Currently, Russia trades 2.5 million tons of oil for 1 million tons of Cuban sugar.

A delegation of Russian parliamentarians is visiting Venezuela this week. They have expressed the political desire of the federation of republics to strengthen bilateral relations in areas such as oil. Yesterday they held meetings with Energy and Mines Minister Erwin Arrieta and Petroven President Luis Giusti.

Another interesting Russian proposal regards their willingness to cooperate with OPEC. Russia is considering joining OPEC because it considers the organization an important agent in maintaining market stability. Moreover, the Russians offer the possibility of exchanging mining and petroleum technology with Venezuela.

Russia is of interest as an oil-producing country despite the sharp drop in its established production capacity of 12 million barrels per day in the 1970's to 7 million barrels per day at present, a volume which it wants to increase by opening the market to national and foreign private investors.

Inspector General on Weapons Modernization

PA0306162794 Maracaibo PANORAMA in Spanish 31 May 94 p 4-1

[Article by Argenis Bravo: "$500 Million To Modernize FAN"]

[Excerpts] With the Umbrella Law [Ley Paraguas] which allocates resources to the Armed Forces, weapons systems will be modernized. This modernization includes the upgrading of Missile Frigates, the French-made AMX-30 tanks, and the purchase and replacement of equipment for the Venezuelan Air Force [FAV] and the National Guard [GN]. The allocation amounts to some $500 million or approximately 8 billion bolivares.

Vice Admiral Rafael Huize Claviel, inspector general of the National Armed Forces (FAN), made this announcement here yesterday. The FAN began their annual government inspection and supervision program for the operational readiness of Tactical Combat Units at the installations of the four military branches in Zulia State. With regard to the administrative aspect, the FAN also began a program to check infrastructure conditions in command posts, barracks, border vigilance posts, and assistance centers.

Huize Claviel was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation that included 10 top officers with the rank of colonel from the four military branches. These officers are also members of the inspection teams. GN Brigadier General Simon Jose Lunar Ortega, chief of the Inspector General's Office also accompanied Claviel. [passage omitted]

Claviel made statements to PANORAMA noting that the Inspector General's Office, within the framework of its annual activities, scheduled this inspection visit to the Zulia Garrison for today. A group of officers from this office are accompanying me to conduct an inspection of the garrison. The 1st Infantry Division commander will give me a report on matters he considers we should become aware of. I will take this report with me to Caracas, where I will try to find solutions to any problems. We will also visit such offices in this military division as the Center for Military Recruitment and the National Armed Forces Social Security Institute. I will also visit the four big commands that operate here beginning with the 1st Division. We already visited the General Rafael Urdaneta Air Base, BARU, and next, we will visit the GN Regional Command No. 3 and the 11th Army Infantry Brigade Regional Command. We will close our tour with a visit to the command post of the Pedro Lucas Urribarri Main Coast Guard Station. [passage omitted]

Adm. Huize Clavier stressed that with the Umbrella Law, the Armed Forces hope to obtain the necessary funds for the maintenance and modernization of its military equipment. He added that through the Umbrella Law, the Armed Forces have designed a development and consolidation program for which it will receive $500 million, which is equivalent to approximately 8 billion bolivares to cover the Umbrella Law 93. [passage omitted]

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